CONICLE

Thursday, August 2, 2018

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More hospital patients have died than expected

RUNCH TA N DEATH RAT

Report by Alex Ross

WALSALL health campaigners say they are concerned over figures which show more hospital patients have died than expected over the past year.

Following the release of statistics from the NHS, Healthwatch Walsall says it will open talks with bosses at

the Manor Hospital.

The figures showed there were 147 more deaths than expected from the hospital in 2017.

It was estimated as part of the report by NHS Digital that there should have been 1,521 deaths at the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

deaths at the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHNT) or within 30 days of discharge in 2017. However, 1,668 people died – 10 per cent more than had been estimated.

Healthwatch Walsall executive director Elizabeth Learoyd said: "The higher than expected number of deaths is concerning. Healthwatch will be looking closely at the statistics to identify which groups are particularly affected and ask the hospital and the clinical commissioning group for an explanation for this."

ask the nospital and the clinical commissioning group for an explanation for this."

The NHS report highlighted 13 hospital trusts where the death rate was higher than expected, with the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust being the worst in the country with 475 more deaths than were predicted.

The trust recorded 2,654 deaths in 2017, 22 per cert higher than the estimate of 2,172

per cent higher than the estimate of 2,179.

However, WHNT fell within the 'as expected' range, which allowed for up to 12 per cent unsupported death with

range, which anowed for up to 12 per cent unexpected death rate.

Mr Amir Khan, medical director at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs Walsall Manor, said: "While we were in the 'as expected' range for the number of deaths that occurred both within and outside of the hospital any improper we apply so all costs in according to the control of the control of the control of the control of the cost in a control of the cost in a control of the cost in a cost of the cost in a cost of the cost in a cost of the cost of tal environment, we analyse all cases in accordance with national policy and to embed changes from any lessons learned. "There are a wide range of factors that con-

tribute to mortality rates which is why we work with partners across Walsall's health economy to prioritise preventative work among people of all ages who use our services.

"We are also one of the best performing organisations under the HSMR national benchmarking which covers the whole of 2017/18.'

DRAMA AS MAN RESCUED FROM BLAZING BUILDING







The victim climbs past Lee who tries to grab the dog

DRAMATIC footage captures the moment a $\,$ the smoke and raced to the scene. By stand-firefighter's son leapt into action and rescued $\,$ ers failed to open the front door and a team

a man who was trapped in a burning building. Lee Bullwright has been praised for saving the victim's life after scaling up a ladder into the building in Walsall Road, Willenhall, and

helping him to get out safely on Saturday.

A video taken by a bystander, who was watching the drama unfold, shows black smoke billowing out of the front and back windows and the chimney. Mr Bullwright, who is a tyre fitter, was working nearby in Gough Street when he saw

or since and raced to the scene. Bystanders failed to open the front door and a team of builders stopped at the scene and fetched their three-tier ladder from their van before leaning it against the building to help with the rescue.

Black smoke shrouded the building before the 29-year-old can be seen in the video at the top of the ladder helping the victim, only

known as Scott, through the front window.
The victim stayed in the building, which was engulfed in smoke, to attempt to find his dog and Mr Bullwright did the same before

taking the decision to get out himself. Crews from Bilston, Walsall and Willenhall tackled the blaze and 20 firefighters were at the scene at the height of it.

the blaze and 20 firefighters were at the scene at the height of it.

They retrieved the dog from the building who was alive at the time but later died.

A firefighter from Bilston, Wesley Davis, said he 'probably saved his life'. The victim is believed to have hugged his hero before thanking him. Mr Bullwright, whose father was a firefighter in Northfield for 20 years, said 'anyone would have done the same.'

• Hero - Page 2

CRIME

Jail for car thief pursued by owner

A CROOK who sped off in a car with the

A CROOK who sped off in a car with the owner clinging to the vehicle has been jailed for three and a half years.

Kyle Hamer, aged 23, of St Giles Road, Willenhall, struck after spotting an Hyundai i10 parked outside Pizza Power in Stafford Street, Willenhall, with the driver's window open and the key in the ignition.

Mehran Bahrami saw the defendant getting into the car. Webster bered Create

ting into the car, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Bahrami dashed outside and grabbed Amer's collar as the vehicle accelerated away with him clutching the man's clothing and the side of the car.

The defendant was later seen walking away and was arrested by a member of the public.

the public.

Hamer, who had 24 previous convictions involving 48 separate offences, pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving, witness intimidation, taking a vehicle without consent, driving while disqualified and other motoring matters.

ACCIDENT

Cyclist badly hurt following collision

A CYCLIST suffered serious injuries

A CYCLIST suffered serious injuries after being hit by a car in Willenhall.

The man in his 20s was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital following the collision on Walsall Road at around 12.30pm on Friday.

He suffered arm and leg injuries and was given pain relief at the scene before being taken to hospital. Buses were diverted as the road was blocked.

TRAFFIC Sheep M6 baa-rrier

TWO sheep brought the southbound carriageway of the M6 to a near standstill after getting out of their field. The pair wandered onto the motorway between junctions 10a and 10 on Sunday afternoon.

INSIDE

Sweet success for lifesaver Aiden, 6



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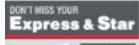
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51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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EVERY SATURDAY

head-on

NIGEL HASTILOW He always tackles the hot topics

Jorja notches up another nomination THE meteoric rise of Walsall's Jorja Smith continues as the singer has seen

her debut album Lost & Found nominated for the Mercury Prize. One of the most prestigious accolades in music, Jorja will go up against the likes of Arctic Monkeys, Lily Allen, Noel

Gallagher's High Flying Birds and Wolf Alice for the album of the year.

Lost & Found was released at the beginning of last month and received favourable reviews across the board. It reached No3 in the UK chart and topped the R&B charts, her collaborations with

drick Lamar earning her plaudits from all corners. The album features the sin-Teenage Fantasy and Blue Lights.

The star tweeted her excitement, saving: "Wow! Honoured to be short listed for this year's @MercurvPrize.

The competition will be stiff for Jorja.
The list of nominees in full reads: Lily
Allen - No Shame; Arctic Monkeys Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino; Everything Everything - A Fever Dream; Everything Is Recorded - Everything Is Recorded; Florence + the Machine -

the likes of Stormzy, Drake and Ken- High as Hope; Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds - Who Built the Moon?; King Krule - The Ooz; Novelist - Novelist Guy; Nadine Shah - Holiday Destination: Sons of Kemet - Your Queen is a Reptile; and Wolf Alice - Visions of a

Life.

The winner will be announced in a ceremony at London's Eventim Apollo

on September 20.

Previous winners include Primal Scream, Pulp, PJ Harvey (twice), Dizzee Rascal, Franz Ferdinand, The xx and Arctic Monkeys.

I'm no hero, insists Lee after fire rescue

AM no hero. Anybody would have done the same."

The album Lost & Found

would have done the same."
Brave Lee Bullwright – the son of a fireman – said he didn't think twice about rushing to the aid of a man trapped in a burning building in Willenhall.
Clambering up a builder's ladder Mr Bullwright, whose father was a fireman in Northfield for years, managed to drag the victim, known only as Scott, out of a small window.
He then kicked in the door to try and save a dog in the Walsall Road house as well.
Mr Bullwright said: "As he went

house as wen.

Mr Bullwright said: "As he went down to the ground I called for his dog but could not see it so I went down the ladder too.
"When I reached the ground oth-

ers pitched in.
"Three of us booted in the front

door and I tried to get in to look for

"I kept really low but was beaten back twice. It was too hot and smoky."

Convenience

Crews from Bilston, Walsall and Willenhall stations arrived shortly afterwards and two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus went into the property and found the dog which was still alive when brought out of the building but sadly died soon afterwards despite desperate efforts to save it.

Ms Nicky Sandhu, who runs a nearby convenience store, said: "It is very sad that the dog died but Scott lived and that is thanks to Lee. He deserves a medal. He is a hero to all

At the height of the blaze, which started around noon on Saturday, there were over 20 firefighters at the scene with four appliances and a turn table ladder. It is not yet known how the fire started



Lee Bullwright outside the property in Willenhall where he saved a man's life from a fire

350-plus Carillion staff made redundant

ANOTHER 356 of the remaining staff employed in Carillion have been made redundant by the Official Receiver. The latest redundancies come six months after the Wolverhampton-based construction and support services group went into liquidation.

The Official Receiver said that a further 21 jobs have been transferred to new suppliers over the past week

HUGE RANGE

and in total, more than 13,500 jobs have been saved. The 356 are leaving the business as their roles are no longer required but support is available to help them find new work.

The 21 posts transferred to new suppliers take the total jobs saved to 13,516 – 74 per cent of the pre-liq-uidation workforce – and 2,778 jobs (15 per cent) have been made redun-

FREE FITTING

dant through the liquidation process A further 1,277 employees have left the business during the liquidation through finding new work, retirement or for other reasons

Some 650 workers are being retained so Carillion can deliver the remaining services it is providing until decisions are taken to transfer or cease remaining contracts

Retiring head bids farewell to city school

A HEADTEACHER is set to retire after devoting 38 years to the teaching profes-

Maggie Hughes, principal of St Edmund's Catholic

Academy, in Compton Park, Wolverhampton, will officially step down from her role on August 31. She said: "It was

a decision I came to and it's the right time. The school is in a very, very good



Maggie Hughes

"I'll miss the students and I'll miss the staff very much. It's like a big family. The people are easy to love and they've supported me all my time. I'll miss them.
"The best times were when the whole

school gathered together in prayer and those are the times I will remember the

Originally from Birmingham, Mrs Hughes moved to Walsall and began her career at St Thomas More Catholic School in Willenhall. She has spent 11 years at St Edmund's and has been head

Problem-hit pub site to be homes

AN empty pub that was closed down due to anti-social behaviour will be turned into homes.

Plans to convert the former Vine Inn pub in Darlaston into apartments have been given the go ahead. Under the proposals, accepted by officers at Walsall Council, the Bell Street pub will become five self-contained flats.

The ground floor will feature two two-bed apartments, with two more on the first floor and a studio apartment in the ground floor outbuilding.

A planning statement said: "The premises has been in disuse for a couple of years since with no scope for such use to be reinstated. The Vine Inn is also close to several other public houses."

Hoar Cross trek for town group

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Jackson's Bank, near Hoar Cross in Staffordshire, for a 7.4 mile circular walk on Sunday.

This is a moderate walk on the National Forest Way to Yoxall Park and returning through Brakenhurst Wood

Non-members are always welcome. More information can be obtained from the walk leader on 07890 816 841

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Television thief with knife jailed for 8 years

A MAN has been jailed for eight years after breaking into a home to steal a television armed with a knife in a

crime spree.

Daniel Donovan, of no fixed address, had admitted three offences at a pre-trial hearing last month, Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard.
The 32-year-old was charged with

theft, aggravated burglary and vehicle interference in connection with inci-dents in a crime spree in the Walsall area between October 31 and November 3, 2017.

Stuart Clarkson, prosecuting, said: "The theft took place outside in Gladstone Street, in Walsall, on October 31, where the victim left his vehicle or where the victim letr his venicie locked and secure at around 7.30am. He returned to find property had been taken including a bag containing £100. The aggravated burglary took pace in Mentor Close, in Walsall, on November 2, where the victim had come to held at great 1.30am and

on November 2, where the victim had gone to bed at around 1.30am and heard someone moving downstairs."

Mr Clarkson told the court the defendant pulled out a three-inch blade after being challenged. "The defendant opened the door and left with the television, although the victim regained composure and got the television. gained composure and got the televi-sion back. The defendant said to him 'you can buy another one, I need the money for drugs'.

"The next day on November 3, the

vehicle interference was in the same area of Walsall, where the first car

area of Walsall, where the first car was attacked."
Defending, Mr David Bright, said:
"He is a sad, sad figure who has had problems in the past and has lost his life to hard drugs."

Recorder Benjamin Nicholls, sitting at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on Friday sentenced him to eight years in prison – to run consecutively to a sentence he is already serving for another offence.

Bishop Asbury home opens up

VISITORS will have a rare chance to

VISITORS will have a rare chance to see inside the childhood home of one of the founding fathers of the United States as part of special open days.

Bishop Asbury Cottage in Newton Road, Great Barr, was the boyhood home of America's first Methodist bishop, Francis Asbury. The cottage will be open to view on August 20 between 11am and 2pm. Admission is free. Asbury was born in Hamstead before moving to the tiny two-up, two-down 18th century cottage. He worked in local forges, became a preacher and

down 18th century cottage. He worked in local forges, became a preacher and moved to America aged 26.

Councillor Steve Trow, said: "This is a great opportunity to learn something new about our local history and an important historical figure."

Firm wins award for its special support **NEWS** IN BRIEF **Tolkien display**



Members of staff at the awards

ognising its work supporting people with learning disabilities. Catherine Care, based in Norton Canes, received a National Learning Disabilities & Autism award at a ceremony at the ICC in Birmingham.

mony at the ICC in Birmingnam.
Director Sharron Keown, said:
"This latest award was very special to
us as it is recognised by our peers."
Award-winning Catherine Care
Support Adults with a Learning Difficulty would like to share their most

recent national award received at The Learning Disabilities and Autism

wide range of services for adults with learning disabilities including residential care, supported living and a community access programme that concentrates on day and evening ac-tivities as well as a personal assistant

service. The team at Catherine Care are highly-trained and experienced and they believe that everyone should have the opportunity to explore and develop their potential.

Catherine Care cover all across

Staffordshire and beyond. It offers

adapted vehicles where necessary to ensure no-one is excluded because of transport issues.

It opens its doors to the community to come and meet the team and see for themselves the work they do. The community are invited to use Catherine Cares Tea Rooms which offers wonderful afternoon themed teas all made and served by adults with learning difficulties.

more information, please con-For more information, pleatact Sharron on sharron@catlcare.com or call 01543 271000.

Circus

antics at

family

fun day

MORE than 800 people are expected to visit the Museum of Cannock Chase on Sunday for its annual summer family day.

The circus-themed event

between midday and 4pm will see members of staff

dressed up in costumes such as clowns, ringmasters, lion tamers and fortune tellers.

It marks the 250th an-niversary of the circus in

Visitor services officer Rachel Gentle said: "These

nacnel Gentle said: "These are great community events where families can get together and spend time together. It's to celebrate summer."

Attractions include a stiltwalker, circus-themed mar-ionettes, traditional Punch & Judy shows, and arts and

Admission is free, but visitors are advised to use pub-

lic transport or park in the town and walk there due to the possibility of the car park filling up quickly.

Britain.

crafts.

opening times. For details visit www. staffordshiregreatwar.com or the Staffordshire Libraries webpages at www.staffordshire.gov.uk. The exhi-bition includes rare photos and copies of original sketches by Tolkien. **Police find drugs** and cash in raid

launched in March 2016. The exhibi-tion is available during normal library opening times. For details visit www.

due at library

AN exhibition celebrating the author of The Lord of the Rings and his links with Staffordshire is now at Hednesford Library until September 1.

A MAN and woman were arrested after drugs and £3,500 in cash were discovered during a police raid. Officers from the local neighbourhood action team and the force's Tactical Support Team took part in the operation.

A spokesman said: "A warrant was executed at an address in the Chads-moor area of Cannock. Approximately 3kg of Class B drugs were recovered, along with approximately £3,500 in cash. A 23-year-old man and 43-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of possessing Class B with intent to supply. Both remain in custody."

Murder probe police clear men

POLICE investigating the murder of a pensioner have said four men ar-rested in connection with his death will face no further action.

However, a 28-year-old man and a 17-year-old arrested on suspicion of murdering 87-year-old Arthur Gumb-ley are still under investigation.

Mr Gumbley died after a violent robbery at his home in Little Aston, near Walsall, in November. He was taken to hospital for treatment to a catalogue of injuries but sadly died three weeks later. The four men dis-counted from the investigation are

Summer family fun at housing group office

A HOUSING association is holding a

A HOUSING association is ficiling a summer event for families at its head office in Walsall.
WHG's By the Sea will take place in Hatherton Street. The summer fun run from 11am to 3pm on Wednesday,

run from 11am to 3pm on Wednesday, August 15. Around 700 people attended last summer's open day. For details go to whg.uk.com/news/ events/fun-in-the-sun-at-whgs-under-

Only 4pc of burglaries in West Mids force solved

JUST four per cent of burglaries committed in the first six months of this year were solved - with 24 cases not followed up because it wasn't in the public interest.

The shock figures reveal West Midlands Police recorded 14,081 burglaries from January 1 to June 30.

But out of those, just 601 have been solved with the suspect being charged in connection with the burglary or another offence.

In 24 cases the force said it was not in the public interest to solve the crime, while in 83 instances the victim did not support police.

Officers faced evidential difficulties in 251

cases. And in 12,483 instances, the crime was recorded but no suspect was identified and the

investigation was dropped. Richard Cooke, chairman of the West Mid-lands Police Federation, said 'it was very sad' a fall in officers meant the force could not effec-

Hall in officers meant the force could not effectively deal with burglaries.

He said the force today had a similar level of officers to the level they had in 1974, adding:

"Given the scarcity of resources, what I believe has happened is that we are forced to prioritise crime depending on the level of threat, risk and harm to members of the public, as well as the likelihood of success and viable lines of en-quiry – the logic being that we need to focus our efforts on those offences where we have the greatest chance of bringing an offender to

"It is very sad that it has reached a point where we are so stretched we cannot get to everyone that needs us. This is why we need urgent new and significant investment in the police and a government committed to restor-ing law and order."

Police Chief Constable Dave Thompson said

budget cuts and fewer officers had meant the force was unable to tackle everything. He said: "On some occasions the service will not meet what I want it to do and it will not meet the response that the public absolutely will want when they're at a time of vulnerability.

"We are drawing the bar higher than used to as to what we will investigate.



Museum staff member Diane Sanders as 'Eleanea' with Ember the dragon

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COUNTY NEWS

Car insurance premiums fall

CAR insurance premiums continued to fall in the three months to the end of June.

The latest AA British Insurance

The latest AA British Insurance Premium 'Shoparound' index saw more than £18 wiped off the average quoted premium.

Over 12 months, premiums have dropped by an average of 10.8 per cent to £648.10 - £78.83 cheaper - from an all-time high of £726.93 at the end of the second quarter last year.

the second quarter last year.

For the Central region, taking in the West Midlands, the quarterly fall for premiums was 3.4 per cent to £659.52. Regionally the largest reduction was in London.

Region fares worst for abuse of staff

NEARLY 60 per cent of consumers in the West Midlands have witnessed some form of abuse towards retail staff in the last three years, new re-

search has found. Insurer NFU Mutual said the abuse included customers belittling or pat-ronising staff and cursing and shouting. Physical attacks on employees were also witnessed. The 59 per cent were also witnessed. The 59 per cent in the West Midlands who have witnessed abuse is the highest percentage in the UK. The average is 52 per cent. Frank Woods, retail specialist at insurer NFU Mutual, said: "No-one decourse to be suckery."

deserves to be spoken to rudely or feel threatened at work.

Third show desire to run a business

MORE than a third of people in the West Midlands would like to run their own business, a survey shows.

Informi, who provide expert advice and guidance for Britain's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), conducted the study to see how entreprenail different regions around the neurial different regions around the

It found 36 per cent in the West Midlands would like to run their own business, 64 per cent of whom were confident it would be a success.

55 per cent of students rue going to university

MORE than half of Midlands students and graduates regret going to university and say they do not need a degree to do their job, a survey has found.

Barclays Apprenticeships discovered that in the Midlands, 55 per cent of people who left university in the last five years regret their decision and the same percentage – compared with a UK average of 44 – said they did not need a degree to do their current job.

Digital move to help smokers stub it out MP's joy as

A DIGITAL hub to help smokers kick the habit is set to be launched. Smokers in Sandwell wanting to

'do it alone' could soon be offered self-help online after councillors agreed to recommission its Stop Smoking ser-

It comes after cabinet members gave the go-ahead to proposals to cut its stop smoking budget by £360,000 and search for a new bidder to deliver

the service. Councillor Elaine Costi-gan, Sandwell council's cabinet mem-ber for public health and protection, said: "Smoking is the single biggest preventable cause of disease and pre-mature death in the UK, and smoking

cessation remains a key priority areas for Sandwell Council public health. "A report to the cabinet highlights the reducing prevalence of smoking and the impact of electronic cigarettes

tional smoking cessation services.

"The new service will target hard-

to-reach groups where smoking prevalence continues to remain high."

The Stop Smoking service will be re-commissioned when the current

contract comes to an end next April, councillors agreed on Wednesday. Council officers proposed remodelling the service after a drop in the number

of smokers in the borough by 13,000 over the past five years.

The percentage of adult smokers fell from almost 23 per cent to 19 per cent over the five years, but is still higher than the national average of 15.5 per cent 15.5 per cent.

It meant councillors wanted to cut its existing budget from £810,000 to £450,000 to better reflect spending on

protection for venues on agenda

COUNCILS have been urged to adopt new planning rules that will protect music venues under threat from noise complaints.

compiants.
Stars including Sir Paul McCartney had warned that proposals to force venues to pay for soundproofine neighbouring properties would drive many of them out of business.

It prompted a Black Country MP to put forward 'agent of change' legisla-tion, which requires those responsible for new housing to pay for any sound-proofing. Now it has been formally incorporated into the Government's new National Planning Policy Frame-work (NPPF).

Labour MP for Warley, John Spellar, who campaigned with UK Music and the Music Venue Trust over the issue, said the move marked a victory for live music venues. I am delighted that the Government has listened to concerns expressed by MPs and the music industry about the fate of music venues across the country, and has fulfilled its commitment to introduce the agent of change principle in the new National Planning Policy Framework," he said.

"This is great news for musicians and music lovers whose voice has been loud and has now been heard."

UK Music CEO Michael Dugher said: "The introduction of agent of change in the NPPF marks a pivotal moment in the fight to protect under threat music venues.

Local authorities are legally bound to comply with the NPPF meaning all committees must consider the princi-ple when making decisions on applications and in framing their planning

Driver faces court date over collision

A MAN has appeared in court over a collision in which a mother and her newborn baby were injured.

Andrew Rose, aged 33, is charged with causing serious injury by dan gerous driving, and grievous bodily harm, and driving without a licence or insurance. The charges relate to an incident on the A34 Walsall Road, in Great Barr, on September 23, 2017.

A 28-year-old woman was pushing

her four-day-old baby in a pram across the dual carriageway near Beeches Road when they were struck. The mother suffered a serious head injury and multiple fractures.

and multiple tractures.

Rose, of Trinity Road, Aston, appeared before Birmingham magistrates and was remanded in custody to appear at the city's crown court on

Carer who stole £3k gets sentence slashed

Report by Richard Guttridge

A CARER, who systematically stole more than £3,000 from a vulnerable man he was looking after, has had his 'excessive' prison term slashed.

Cheru Dakari Allen, aged 26, had never been in trouble with police but turned to crime after running up debts due to a cocaine addiction

Over 10 months in 2015 and 2016, he repeatedly took money from the account of a 35-year-old man with learn-

ing difficulties.

He was rumbled when it was spotted some of the withdrawals had been made in the evening, when it was known the victim did not go out alone after 6pm. When quizzed by police, Allen, of Dabchick Grove, Walsall, admitted what he had done and pleaded

Inquiries revealed Allen regularly Inquiries revealed Allen regularly took around £150-a-time in rogue transactions using the man's bank card and PIN number, either making an entry in the official log. He said he was deeply sorry for what he had done. He was sentenced to 20 months' jail at Wolverhampton Crown Court last month. But Allen saw his 20-month

month. But Allen saw his 20-month sentence reduced to 14 months by top judges in London on Thursday.

His lawyers told the Court of Appeal that Allen had made great strides in the two years between arrest and sentencing to change his life.

He had beaten his drug addiction and found new work, Lord Justice Simon, Mrs Justice Carr and Judge Mark Brown were told.

Ruling on the case, Lord Justice Simon said the theft was particularly serious because it was committed by a carer. However, he said the crown court judge went too far in sentenc-ing a man of good character who had shown 'clear remorse' to 20 months.

Pupils read into week of celebrations



Chris Ward, and Councillor Simon Hackett with pupils from Hamstead Junior, celebrating their favourite books

PUPILS from a school have celebrated their love of reading with their favourite books. Students from Hamstead Junior School in Great Barr took part in a 'Literature Week', which saw them read their favourite books, use their drama skills to act out stores and talk to renowned children's author Chitra Soundar.

Headteacher Timothy Bowen said: "Our first Literreadteacher Innotiny Bowen said: Our installer-ature Week event was a huge success, promoting the love of reading, and lifelong reading being at its core. The children developed a greater understanding of the books they studied and were enthused about the writ-ing process." Councillor Simon Hackett, Sandwell's

cabinet member for Children's Services, who visited the school with Sandwell's director of education Chris Ward, said: "The children told me how much they love reading because it helps them to use their imagination and improves their writing. I was really impressed by the en-thusiasm and passion they obviously have for reading."

The week also featured a debate on who is the most evil villain in children's literature, with each class read-ing a different book and making the case for their villain to Chair of Governors Lynn Howard.

The winning character was Miss Slighcarp from Joan Aitken's The Wolves of Willoughby Chase.









Fresh appeal is issued to find missing Ralphon, 15

find a missing 15-year-old boy with links to the Black Country. Ralphon Foster, who is believed to have links



to Wolverhampton and Birmingham, has been misshas been miss-ing for more than

The Derby teenager, who police believe may have also spent time in Bristol, was last Bristol, was last seen on July 9 at

Ralphon Foster

11.30am. He is described as black, 5ft 6ins tall, of medium build with brown

oins tail, of meatim bullo with brown eyes and cropped black hair.

He was wearing blue Adidas bottoms, a blue Armani T-shirt, black trainers and was carrying a small black bag at the time of his disappearance. Ralphon is also known as having a birthmark on the right side of his stomach

stomach.

In a reissued appeal, Derbyshire Police said: "We are issuing a further appeal for sightings of 15-year-old Ralphon Foster, who remains missing after last being seen on the morning of Monday, July 9 at 11.30am. If you have seen Ralphon, or know of his whereabouts please get in touch." whereabouts, please get in touch.

The force can be contacted through its social media accounts or by its website: www.derbyshire.police.uk/Contact-Us.

Vauxhall car dealerships go

TWO car dealerships in the West Midlands have shut – leaving dozens of workers without jobs.

workers without jobs.
GO Vauxhall in Wednesbury's
Bridge Street and GO Vauxhall on
Milford Road in Stafford shut last
week. They are owned by GO Motor
Retailing Limited.

It is understood there are 60 memof staff who are now without

Customer Stephen Read said: "They have not informed their customers. I only found out by my service plan providei

A Vauxhall spokesman said of the closures: "For Wednesbury, the nearest sites are Evans Halshaw Wolverhampton and Dudley Motor Company.

Heathers return

THE 30th anniversary of cult movie Heathers will be screened in the West

Midlands next month.

The 80s flick will be on at Showcase
Cinemas in Dudley and Walsall on August 10 and August 14.

New life for factory with £10m deal NEWS IN BRIEF 5



Staff members celebrate the deal

Boulton Paul Defiant night fighter is being brought back into use by a flat-pack furniture company as part of a £10 million investment.

Seconique, from Wednesbury, has bought the former aircraft factory on Wobaston Road, Pendeford, Wolverwonaston Road, Pendeiord, Wolverhampton, after securing backing for its investment plans from Allied Irish Bank (GB). The 450,000 sq fb uilding has undergone major renovation to become a warehouse and offices after more than 75 years as an aircraft factory. That ended in 2012 when

over the road to a new £20m factory on the i54 site. It is now the base for Seconique, which is one of the UK's largest independent importers and wholesalers of flat-pack furniture. Formed in 1986 and with an annual turnover in the region of £27m, Seconique is in the process of moving from Woden Road, Wednesbury, to its new home.

The 17.5-acre site was once home to the Boulton Paul aircraft plant, which produced the famous Defiant night fighter in the Second World War. To named the building as Boulton House

The management and 92 staff will transfer to the new site towards the end of this month. Seconique expects to recruit more in the next few months as its trading expands. Managing director Helen Barker

said: "Seconique has been something of a sleeping giant but owning our own HQ gives us a great platform to move forward."

She added: "We've also been fascinated to be approached by people who used to work for Boulton Paul."

Birmingham Road, while it is hoped the Wolseley Bridge site, which is close to Rugeley, will fetch up to £3.8 **Grandson denies** charge of murder

THE future of a Walsall garden centre has been put in doubt after it was placed on the market for £800,000.

The sale of the centre in Chester Road, Aldridge, is part of Wyevale's plan to sell off a total of 145 garden centres across the UK.

Wolseley Bridge Garden Centre at Wolseley Bridge and Shenstone Gar-den Centre, off the M6 Toll, near Li-

chfield, are also on the market.

The owner put a guide price of £8.5 million for the Shenstone centre in

A 25-YEAR-old man has denied mur dering his grandmother.

Anne James was found dead at her home in Doveridge Place, Highgate, on February 28. She had been stabbed to death.

Her grandson Greg Irvin, from Hill Park, Walsall Wood, pleaded not guilty to the murder of the 74-year-old when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last Thursday. Irvin was remanded in custody to stand trial on October 8 at a yenue to be decided October 8 at a venue to be decided.

Mrs James was a director for The Haven charity in Wolverhampton.

Bike and tools are taken in shed raid

AN expensive mountain bike, gol AN expensive mountain blike, got clubs and tools were stolen in Pelsall. Thieves used bolt-cutters to break into the shed in Garden Crescent overnight on July 23/24.

Items taken include an Incline 13 Gamma mountain bike with a black frame and vallow green and

black frame and yellow, green and red flashes, golf clubs and a range of power and hand tools.

Anyone with any information should contact West Midlands Poisional contact west Midiatus Fo-lice on 101 quoting reference number 20WS/167040D/18 or call Crimestop-pers on 0800 555 111.

Raiders break in then take car from drivewav

THIEVES broke into a house and stole car keys before making off with a new Audi from a driveway.

The car was taken from Linley Wood Road, Aldridge overnight between July 24/25 after the culprits climbed over a wall and snapped the lock off the back door.

Police are appealing for information following the burglary. Call 101 quoting reference number 20WS/168139Q/18.

Quick-thinking boy, 6, saves his great-grandad

A QUICK-THINKING youngster saved his diabetic great-grandfather's life . . . by feeding him Jelly Babies.

Six-year-old Aiden Smith had gone to stay with Brian Clark, who has type two diabetes, when he had a hypoglycaemic attack and was in danger of slipping into a coma.

It was the first time in three weeks that Aiden, a pupil at Bentley West Primary School in Walsall, had been able to stay with Brian as the 73-year-old had been suffering from health issues – and what

great timing.

The hero youngster used a 'finger-prick test' to
measure his great-grandfather's blood sugar levels
and realised they had dropped dangerously low.

He then grabbed Jelly Babies from one of Brian's
bedside draws and fed them to him.

Cool Aiden said: "I went to see grandad and
thought he did not look well so I found the fin-

unught he did not look well so I found the finger-prick machine and checked his blood sugar levels. I had seen grandad use that before so I knew what to do. When I saw how low his blood sugar levels were, they were on 1.0, I found the Jelly Babies he keeps in a draw next to the bed and gave him one."

Brian's levels eventually rose to a safe 3.4 on the test. Aiden added: "I also got him some Lucozade. He was much better after that."
Aiden's mother Hayley Farren, from Walsall,

said: "It's fantastic. I'm so proud of that little boy, how many six-year-olds can do that? He saved his great-grandad's life. Aiden's been poorly himself and was suffering from asthma attacks in December, so to step up at six and do what he did, it's

Everyone in the family has been used to see-

"Everyone in the family has been used to seeing grandad inject his insulin and we've always watched it and all know about it.

"We know Aiden has seen it but we never expected he would be able to go through this whole process to help his great-grandad. It's funny that Aiden actually doesn't like Jelly Babies himself, but he knows that grandad needed them."

Hayley added: "He's like a sponge, he soaks everything in and when needed he can use what he has learned."

Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, where Aiden is treated for asthma, handed him a certificate recognising his bravery.



Aiden Smith with great-grandad Brian who he stopped from going into a diabetic coma with Jelly Babies

Cyclist badly hurt after colliding with car

A CYCLIST suffered serious injuries after being in collision with a car in Willenhall.

The man in his 20s was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital following the accident on Walsall Road at around 12.30pm on Friday.

He suffered arm and leg in-

to hospital. An ambulance, paramedic officer and critical care car attended. Buses had to be diverted as the road was blocked while medics treated the injured

West Midlands Ambulance

juries and was given pain relief at the scene before being taken Service spokesman Jamie Arawsmith said: "We were called out to reports of a collision be-

ween a car and a cyclist.
"We treated a man in his 20s

we treated a man in his 200 for arm and leg injuries. "He was immobilised, given pain relief and taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital."

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Chronicle

TALKING POINT

What a lot of fuss over university billboard

LAST week, somebody who styled herself as "Dr Helen Dexter of Leicester University" posted an advertisement for Wolverhampton University on social media, with the comment "This image is so offensive I am amazed anyone thought it was appropriate. Please withdraw it im-

mediately."
I looked at it, and then looked at it I looked at it, and then looked at it again. I could not see anything remotely offensive. Admittedly, I couldn't understand what it was about either, just a young girl, presumably a student, talking to a group of children, presumably in Africa. With the slogan "If you want to explore new worlds, start here."

It is a hopeless advert, but then again, roadside billboards seldom give confidence in an academic institution. When

dence in an academic institution, when was the last time you saw one for Oxford or Cambridge?

But while it seems a rather silly way to promote its courses, I fail to see how any-body could possibly be offended. Thankfully, Dr Helen's fellow travellers were happy to explain. happy to explain.

Now I'm always sceptical about non-medics who preface their name with the title "Dr", particularly on social me-dia. It seems a bit chippy, a bit like listing your O-level grades after your name. But when it comes to self-regard, the people who took offence seem to be on another

who took offence seem to be on another planet.

"Prof Dr Lisa Ann Richey" explained it was all about "voluntourism" and "neo-colonialism", as well as "visual signage". Now when was the last time any-

body who used the word 'signage' had a valid point to make? Then there was Nicole Andrews, a 33-year-old health and social care lectur-

33-year-old health and social care lecturer at Newman University in Birmingham. She said: "There's strands of colonialism, patriotism, racism, gender issues." So patriotism is a bad thing now, as well?
Also worth an honourable mention is Dave Hitchcock, a self-styled "historian" who says the "echoes of philanthrocapitalism are Not Good". Philanthrocapitalism are Not Good". Philanthrocapitalism. Where do they get these words from? I think, in plain English, what they are trying to say is that a lot of young people who go on these "aid projects" are really after a cheap holiday and a pat on the back, which is actually a valid point.

I have long grown weary of people rais-

back, which is actually a valid point.
I have long grown weary of people raising thousands of pounds in sponsorship not to give to charities working in the Third World, but simply to pay for their very expensive trip. Quite what this has to do with colonialism, gender issues or capitalism, though, I'm not sure. Still, on the positive side, at least it's funny seeing problems of the provider of the positive side, at least it's funny seeing problems. ing one bunch of snowflakes complaining about another bunch of snowflakes

Sondos Alqattan – and the problem of employing Filipina maids



Remember the time when 'Made in Britain' reigned

Humid? I am reminded of the throwaway line by neighbour Nick (Owen Brenman)



Peter Benchley's definition in his novel, Jaws – a shark is a swimming appetite

Glow of pride that can cost a fortune

TODAY I metaphorically link arms with Comrade Jez on the long march to the sunlit uplands of Brexit. Jeremy Corbyn is a long-standing enemy of the EU for exactly the same reason as his political enemies Boris Johnson and Jacob Rees-Mogg. They do not believe Britain can be properly governed, or reach its full potential, as a one-28th part shareholder in a superstate which is strangled by red tape and ruled by people who think Luxembourg is a real country. This week Mr Corbyn urged the nation to seize one of the first advantages of Brexit - the weak pound - to kick-start our manufacturing industry. Why buy stuff from China when we can make it here?

WELL, it sounds perfect. Unless you are old enough to remember the time when almost every item you bought was marked "Made in Britain"which may have given us a brief glow of pride but cost us a fortune.

IN the drought of 1976, for example, being young and foolish, we followed the Government's advice to soak the garden using water from the washing machine. What no-one told us was that the appliance's water pump depended on a certain level of water pressure. Attaching the machine to a garden hose increased the pressure, demolished the pump and wrecked the "Made in Britain" washing machine. The replacement, also made in Britain, cost us £130 or placement, also made in Britain, cost us \$130 or to put it another way, two weeks' wages. Consumers have grown accustomed to consumer goods being made in China and sold here for a fraction of what, in real terms, they used to cost. So own up, citizens. How much are you presented to the arbeiting Committee and the stable of the cost. pared to pay to subsidise Comrade Jez's Number One All-British Washing Machine Factory?

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THIS week saw the introduction of a pair of beavers to a stream in the Forest of Dean Or as it will shortly be known, the Lake of Dean.

OUR changing language. Full marks in the creative-English stakes to the police officer on Radio 4 who described a rise in acid attacks from 700 a year to 800 per year as "a de-es-calation." What she meant was that the rate of increase was slowing down. It's a bit like infla-tion which makes prices go up, even when it's

I PRESS the computer key and TV Licensing replies: "Thank you. Your TV licence application was successful." Depends how you define successful. I am poorer by £150.50 yet I seem to watch less BBC than ever before. This week I have been mostly watching Netflix.

SPELLCHECK. Netflix = Reflux.

IN the debate over whether the insult "gammon" is racist, a reader insists the term has "zero racist comment." Which is exactly what they used to say about golliwogs, the N-word and the Black and White Minstrels. Don't you just hate being on the wrong side of history?

THE BBC's religious slot Thought for the Day, is reserved for approved religions, despite lobbying by atheists, humanists, pagans and druids. One item this week was a common-sense discourse on the costs of funerals by a Church

not a religious line in it. The piece could have been delivered just as well by an agnostic, rain-dancer or Jedi knight. The idea that only God-botherers have opinions worth listening to is a form of discrimination. Unworthy, Auntie

BIG questions of our age. "How can you have a servant at home who keeps their own pass-port with them? What's worse is they have one day off every week, " Kuwaiti social-media star Sondos Algattan on the problem of employing Filipina maids. Servants, eh? Who'd have 'em?

SHARKS are flocking (do sharks flock?) to Cornwall. As sea temperatures rise it is not a question of whether someone will be devoured by a British shark, but when. Yet the official line seems to be that sharks are magnificent, intelligent creatures that we should adore and not fear. I prefer Peter Benchley's definition in his great novel, Jaws. A shark is a swimming ap-

WHILE we're on it, who decided in all the latest nature programmes, that killer whales should suddenly be rebranded as Orcas? They have not gone all huggy-feely, vegan and fluffy overnight and I suspect they not only think of themselves as killers but are proud to be intro-duced as such. Yeah, technically I'm an Orca but just call me Killer, right?

THE more humid it gets, the more I am reminded of that silly, throwaway and yet unforgettable line from One Foot in the Grave (BBC) when Victor Meldrew's chatty neighbour Nick (Owen Brenman) flips the fence panel aside and asks: "Is it moist or is it me?"

Beautiful game? It's just one big cliché

The football season is just a couple of days away but don't expect the main action to be taking place on the pitch. Far from it, in fact. Away from the glare

of the TV cameras and plodding punditry is where the modern game is played out these days.

is where the modern game is played out these days.

Typically topical and candidly controversial, Talking Point offers the following top 10 highlights of 2018-19:

1 Many an eyebrow will be raised in the first month of the season when at least half a dozen clubs will lose patience with their coaches. Yes, it's time to jump aboard the Managerial Merry-go-Round.

2 Social media will be 'buzzing' after a player/manager/commentator oversteps the mark and posts something to cause 'outrage' and 'disgust'. It happens all the time so why do we still get so uptight?

3 A newborn child will be landed with the names of all the players at the club his father (and it's usually down to the dad) supports. Time to call in the NSPCC?

4 Back in social media land, there will be regular updates on an 'ardent' supporter who has booked a flight from the other side of the werded only to be there.

porter who has booked a flight from the other side of the world, only to be thwarted in getting to their 'match of a lifetime' by a strike by air traffic controllers.

by a strike by air traffic controllers.

5 A 'warts and all' autobiography will
'lift the lid' on the excesses and corruption behind the shiny facade of the beautiful game. Note the timing of publication

... just in time for the Christmas market.
6 Several clubs will brag about having
a 'celebrity supporter' who has crawled
out of the woodwork having watched a

out of the woodwork having watched a few World Cup games on the telly. 7 At some stage in the season, a family will be pictured wearing the team colours of two rival sides who are playing each other that week. Headline? "Family loyalties put aside until final whistle". 8 A survey, probably by an estate agents, will show how house prices are affected by the proximity to a football ground, omitting the problem of trudging home having parked half a mile away when the streets are clogged up with supporters' cars.

when the streets are clogged up with supporters' cars.

9 A cliché will spring up that will get everyone gnashing their teeth by the end of the season. My money's on "They're in a love train", as coined by Glenn Hoddle when England players stood in a queue waiting for a corner to be taken.

10 "Council busybodies" will 'stick their nose in' when someone paints the outside of their house in their team colours. There it is, our national sport in all its

There it is, our national sport in all its glory. If you're a football fan, don't get too irate. If you're not, I'm afraid you''ll just have to grin and bear it. Here we go, here we go, here we go!

STEVE PARLETT



MPs act like petulant children Not original

depressing. Our elected representatives are acting like petulant children. Those who Love Island than in mundane matters such lost' the Brexit vote are doing everything as the prosperity of their own country.

Because, that is what's at stake. We are with the EU before we leave.

Those who 'won' the Brexit vote, and were tasked with negotiating the terms of a policy they disapprove of.

The Europeans will be laughing at us

until they remember that no deal with the

silence on

dental care

NEWS that Wolverhamp-ton Council have identified

health issues and poor lev-

el of care after looking into dental care for the elderly in

care homes highlights the problem that affects a group

These elderly patients often suffer serious dental problems, unable to use their dentures to eat, re-

sulting in a poor diet, giving them extra stress which will increase their risk of demen-

tia and increase their risk of other health problems and was certainly my experience

when a practising dentist. Fewer than two per cent of the NHS dental budget

is used to treat patients in care homes. A similar inves-

tigation needs to be carried out in Walsall care homes as

I suspect this issue is also present here and needs to be addressed. This could lead to considerable improve-

ment in the quality of life amongst some of the most frail members of our society. CLLR IAN ROBERTSON Walsall

who suffer in silence.

I NEED to stop following the news, it is so UK will also cost them dear, whereasOur own population seem more interested in the

being badly served by those we elected to run our country, and we should be doing something about it. The situation is serious our departure, have spit out their dummies enough for an all-party coalition, or national because the Prime Minister imposed an unelected 'adviser' on them who came up with Second World War. But, where we find a Winston Churchill this time, I have no idea.

Suffering in **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

graeme.andrew@expressandstar.

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES If we cannot reach a resolution

For press freedom-with responsibility pso

contact Ipso at complaints@ipso. co.uk or by post at Ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, Lon-don, EC4M 7LG Advice to readers on

renewal of insurance

A MESSAGE to all readers, never accept 'auto renew-als' for insurance and other quotes as there is almost always a price increase even when there are no changes or claims made during the

previous year.

When attempting to find improved quotes and tariffs vou do not always need to use internet comparison sites as each site has a lim-ited number of providers.

If you are happy with your current provider, phone

them, they can usually provide you with improved offers and more suitable tar-

iffs, some that may be held back from the internet. Please also remember that the provider should always send you an updated document with the new payments and payment method.

I have had much success by speaking directly to my providers over a number of

MRS S STEATHAM

THE photo of the Beatties store printed in articles about the pending closure under the flag of House of Fraser shows a view of the rounded corner of the building. In actual fact that building wasn't part of the original Beatties store.

Beatties view

It belonged to a firm called Bedford Williams and was a combined haberdash ery business on the ground floor, with a tailoring de-partment on the upper floor employing a team of fully qualified tailoresses work-

ing full-time for many years.
Then in approximately
the mid-1960s Beatties bought them out, keeping the same staff in full employment, as far as I am

It should be created a listed building in deference to the benevolence shown to the town by the Beatties

family over the years.

PAULINE POOLE

Oh, the irony of bank advert

NOTED with sadness recent local news story highlighting the closure manigning the closure of the last remaining bank on Brierley Hill High Street. An event stressful for both employees and customers I would imagine.

Yet, this is the same bank that is currently spending thousands of pounds on television advertising wanting us to believe they are con cerned about the mental health and well being of the general public.

The irony of this is pal-

CHRISTINE BENNETT
Walsall



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Race to get Joy at hat-trick of outstanding ratings aquatics centre built for Games

ble to ensure a multi-million pound aquatics centre is built in time for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, a new report has revealed.

The project to build the swimming centre in Smethwick has been marked as 'red' in a report, suggesting concerns on whether it will be delivered

The report said Sandwell Council risks 'significant reputational damage' if the £60m centre cannot be de-

livered on time or on budget.

The aquatics centre will host swimming and diving at the Birmingham games in four years' time.

Scope

Once the Games are over, it will be used as a leisure centre. Funding will be de-livered by Commonwealth

Games organisers.

The report said: "If the council does not put in place robust project arrangements for the successful delivery of the aquatic centre to project scope, timescales and cost, then this will result in sig-nificant reputational dam-age to the council."

By Richard Guttridge

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said he was 'not concerned at this stage'. Bosses are aiming to begin work early next year and for the centre to be complete by 2021. But the fixed date of the competition means the pressure is on to ensure there are no delays.

Councillor Eling said:
"It is part of a complicated
Commonwealth Games project. If we were delivering
it on our own it would be a
much simpler process. The
risk rating would be smaller
if we had the whole funding.
"There are still a number

"There are still a number of details across the whole Commonwealth Games to be decided. It's not something I'm concerned about at this storm." at this stage.



Pupils and teachers celebrate the third successive outstanding report at Alumwell Nursery School

A 'MAGICAL' Walsall nursery school has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted for the third time in a row.

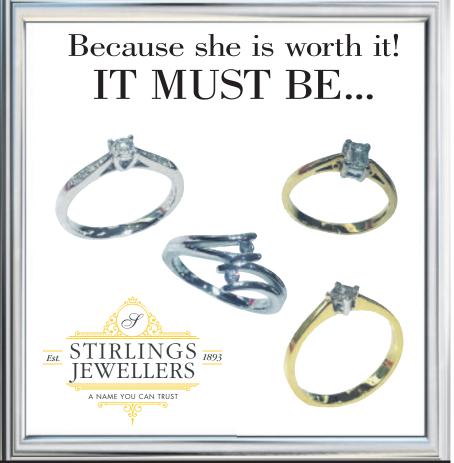
After previously being rated outstanding, Ofsted's re-cent visit to Alumwell Nursery School nursery was only a short inspection to see if it was still maintaining the same standards.

Inspector Bogusia Matusiak-Varley deemed the school was still outstanding and said in a letter to headteacher Armela Patel: "The leadership team has maintained the outstanding quality of education in the school.

"Your determined and visionary leadership, coupled with your hard work and dedication to the whole of the school community, have resulted in the school being a magical place for children to learn."

Ms Patel said: "I am delighted with the report which acknowledges all the hard work by children, staff, parents and governors





Councillors glad as post office is saved

Warden hangs up Iollipop



Crossing warden Des Shorto gets a send-off from Rushall Primary pupils

HE'S been helping generations of children to get safely across the road for more than 25 years. Now children at Rushall Primary School

in Walsall have bid farewell to retiring cross warden Des Shorto.

Mr Shorto has also served as a school governor for more than 15 years and has played a big part in a host of school events throughout the years. A celebration was held to

thank the 76-year-old for his years of service to the children, teachers and parents.

As well as helping children and

their parents cross the road, Mr Shorto has also assisted with com-fort and safety at school events.

Mr Shorto previously worked as a special constable at Walsall Police Station for 15 years, where his duties included traffic control.

wood say they are breathing a sigh of relief that the future of Sankey's Corner post office appears to be secured, for now at

Burntwood Town Councillor Darren Ennis, had expressed an interest in buying the premises but ownership has been transferred along with the

post office facility.

Others also joined the campaign to keep the post office in place.

Councillor Diane Evans, leader of the Labour group on Burntwood Town Council, pursued an application to designate the post office as an Asset of Community Value, and Chacatom ward Councills Shown and Chasetown ward Councillor Sharon Banevicius, who represents Chasetown on Lichfield District Council, 'called in' for discussion an application to change the premises to a dental surgery which has now been withdrawn.

Councillor Evans said: "As the post office

Councillor Evans said: "As the post office is so important to the local community, the Labour councillors felt it necessary to ask the district council to nominate it so that it cannot be sold for any other purpose.

"This was successfully achieved so the Asset of Community Value remains in place for up to five years and even then, if owners decide to sell, the council must be notified and there will be the opportunity to purchase it as a post office."

Councillor Banevicius said: "People have been very concerned about the possible loss

been very concerned about the possible loss of the post office at Sankey's Corner, espe-cially as we have lost our banks, so this is good news for our town and we wish the

good news for our town and we wish the new owners and postmaster every success. "I think the message to local people is that we must use the post office so that it remains viable for the future." Cllr Evans added: "While we have won this battle, we need to keep a close eye on things as the situation can easily change."



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'Inadequate' rating for school in academy switch

ranked 'inadequate' following its first inspection since converting to an academy.

Offsted said All Saints National Academy, in Bloxwich High Street, was failing in its teaching and leadership.
Formerly Bloxwich Church of England Primary, the school had previously been placed in special measures after inspectors found it was not making anough progress to move away.

after inspectors found it was not making enough progress to move away from being monitored.

However, its progress will continue to be checked, as, following its first inspection in May since converting to an academy, Ofsted found the school to be 'inadequate'.

Declined

The report concludes leadership is

The report concludes leadership is not good enough and 'successful cohorts of children have underachieved'. It claims teaching is inadequate, the teaching of writing is particularly weak, the curriculum is inadequate, pupils' outcomes are significantly below those seen nationally and attendance rates have declined.

The academy currently has two in-terim principles. Ofsted said the lack of a permanent head meant actions to

of a permanent head meant actions to improve the teaching quality had not been as effective as they might be. Ofsted pointed out that pupils' behaviour had improved, staff were committed to making improvements and recent, significant changes in leadership were having a positive impact. Early years provision was the only category to achieve a 'good' rating. A 'requires improvement' rating was attributed to the 'personal development, behaviour and welfare' category. The remaining three categories and the overall rating were 'inadequate'.



All Saints National Academy, on High Street, Bloxwich

Donation funds college trip

A WALSALL college has received a donation from a regional builder to help it take disadvantaged students on a week-long annual outward-bound trip

Persimmon Homes West Midlands. donated £500 to the Castle Business Enterprise College through its Community Champions scheme

Students at the Odell Road college have also been fundraising by organising discos, cake sales and car washes to help cover the £293 cost per stuphen Cleveley, director-in-charge of Persimmon Homes West Midlands, said: "The students are clearly working hard themselves to raise money for this worthwhile trip and we are delighted to be able to support them.

"If people were unsuccessful in their Community Champions application, we urge them to visit the Persimmon Homes website and to try again." Visit www.persimmonhomes.com

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'Memory man' won't forget award

AN observant officer known as the 'memory man' after identifying more than 1,000 crime suspects in five years been given a top award.

PCSO Andy Pope has established a reputation for his remarkable ability to remember faces of people wanted by the West Midlands force.

The 40-year-old part of the Safar.

The 40-year-old, part of the Safer Travel Partnership, remembers faces from CCTV footage, stills and police briefings and has identified 1,000 people between 2012-2017 on buses, trams, trains and on the street for offences ranging from robbery, burglary, drug dealing and sex-

In recognition of Mr Pope's identi-fication skills he was awarded a Chief

Constable's Award.
Inspector Rachel Crump, from the Safer Travel Partnership, said: "Andy has a remarkable ability and various departments across the force have benefitted from his razor-sharp memory.



Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe hands the award to PCSO Andy Pope

Health service shake-up with surgeries merging

DOCTORS' surgeries in Walsall are set to merge under a high shake up of health serbig shake-up of health services.

The move will affect thousands of patients as eight practices become four, opening from 8am to 6.30pm weekdays with some also offering evening and weekend appointments.

Wharf Family Practice, in Pleck Pand will move to Eventer Street.

Road, will move to Forester Street joining Sai Medical Practice and Manor Medical Centre under one roof. The Wharf Family Practice site in

Harden Family Practice and Coalpool Family Practice, which al-ready share a premises in Harden Road and Blakenall Family Practice in Thames Road will merge and become one surgery, based across the two sites in Harden Road and Thames Road and allowing registered patients the ability to see a GP at both sites. A new name for the merged practices may be decided in the future.

Two other practices affected by the

Practice in Willenhall and Colling-wood Family Practice in Great Barr.

They will open from 8am to 6.30pm.

The changes, which will all come into force on September 1, follow a public consultation held by NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group

(CCG).

Professor Simon Brake, chief officer rroressor Simon Brake, chief officer of NHS Walsall CCG said: "By merging several GP surgeries we are creating more appointments and therefore, offering patients more opportunities get see a GP."

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Pupils' shoe-per contribution

CHILDREN in Great Wyrley kicked off their shoes in delight and walked barefoot to celebrate their contribution to a charity.

tion to a charity.
Pupils at Landywood Primary School left their shoes on their desks after lessons, so they could be sent to disadvantaged children in 35 different countries. It was part of the Toe to Toe Project where children's shoes iect, where children's shoes are sent to the charity Sal's Shoes and then shipped off to other youngsters.

Andrew Clewer, head-

teacher at Landywood, said: "We believe by par-ticipating in this project

our pupils have learned a powerful message about the ethos of this programme. When we explained to the children where their shoes were going they were initially surprised to know that shoes they would no longer be wearing after the summer holiday were going to be worn by children in less fortunate places in the world.

Last year, more than 750,000 pairs of shoes were distributed by the charity, and Mr Clewer said the whole school was pleased to be able to support such a worthy cause. worthy cause.



Walking without shoes at Landywood Primary School, from left, pupils Luke Roberts, aged eight, Christina Gavriel, Lewis Webb, Isabella Maullin and Shona Watson, all 10

Authors focus on Fred's difficulties in wartime



John Babb from Wolverhampton and Gerry Barton from Rugeley

HE was only a teenager, but had lived_in Hednesford, died in shoe salesman Fred Spinks already had a huge weight

on his shoulders.

All three of his brothers were serving in the British Army in the First World War and his mother was a widow. His sister's husband had also been wounded and was on his way home. So the 19-year-old, who worked at Frisby's in Walsall, applied for absolute exemption to conscription on the grounds of con-

science and hardship to his family.

A local tribunal gave him a onemonth temporary exemption. Less than a year later, Mr Spinks, who

action in France while serving the 10th Battalion Lincolnshire Regi-

ment.

Mr Spinks' tribunal was one of thousands held as a result of people appealing under the Military Service Act 1916 not to be enrolled in the Armed Forces. His story features in a new book called Who Does Want to Kill Anyone, written by Gerry Barton and John Babb.

The book includes many other case studies, most obtained through Staffordshire Records Book.

Staffordshire Records Book.

Mr Barton said: "Fred Spinks' story is typical of the many in South Staffordshire who sought exemp-

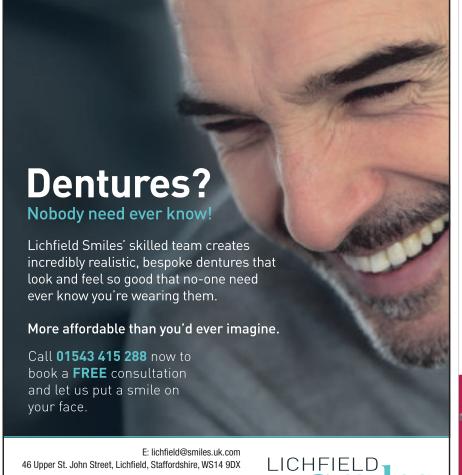
of conscience.
"Unlike Fred, most of them had their beliefs vigorously interrogated by the local tribunals. "Many of them presented well-ar-

gued, written support and with-stood very hostile questioning. "In 1921, the Government or-dered the destruction of all tribu-

nal files, but some were discovered in the Staffordshire Records Office and thanks to their work in preserv ing them, we've been able to put to-

gether this detailed story."

The book is available by emailing BBNStaffs@hotmail.com and is priced at £9.99.



www.smiles.uk.com Matt Burnell BSc (Hons) Dip CDT RCS (Eng)

GDC 123633



Thursday, August 2, 2018

Arsonists blamed as flames destroy crops

Shoes off as school's out



Pupils Luke Roberts, Christina Gavriel, Lewis Webb, Isabella Maullin and Shona Watson go barefoot at Landywood Primary

CHILDREN kicked off their shoes ject our pupils have learned a pow-

CHILDREN kicked off their shoes and walked out barefoot to celebrate the start of the summer holidays, helping out a charity to boot. Pupils at Landywood Primary in Great Wyrley, left their shoes behind at the end of term so they could be sent to disadvantaged children in 35 different countries. dren in 35 different countries.

It was part of the Toe to Toe Project, where children's shoes all across the country are sent to Sal's Shoes charity and then shipped off to other youngsters. Headteacher at the Holly Lane school, Andrew Clewer said: "We

believe by participating in this pro-

erful message about the ethos of this programme. "Such projects really help our

"Such projects really help our children understand the importance of being global citizens."

Last year more than 750,000 pairs of shoes were distributed by the charity and Mr Clewer said the whole school was pleased to be able to support such a worthy cause.

He added: "We believe at this time of year families tend to buy new shoes ready for the new school year in September so it is an ideal time to support this charity and support others less fortunate."

setting fire to a field of crops, sending plumes of black smoke

Flames ripped through the ripe corn, spreading rapidly across the sun-baked ground in Little Wyrley near

Twenty firefighters battled to contain the blaze involving an area almost the size of 30 football pitches.

Crews from Bloxwich and Cannock were

Crews from Bloxwich and Cannock were sent to the scene after the alarm was raised at 4.22pm on Thursday.

A West Midlands Fire spokesman said:
"It was a fast-moving fire which had been deliberately ignited. A farmer reported seeing people setting light to the crops.
"The blaze involved a 38-acre field of standing corn, of which 75 per cent was destroyed. Crews spent some time dampening down at the scene."

Smoke from the fire in Fishley Lane could be seen from miles around.

could be seen from miles around.

Gorse

Members of the Bloxwich crew tweeted a picture from the scene under the hashtag
#arsonisacrime

Meanwhile, firefighters tackled a large grass fire in Rugeley. Crews from Rugeley. Cannock, Lichfield and Chase Terrace were sent to the scene on the Peartree estate at

sent to the scene on the Peartree estate at 2pm on Saturday. The fire involved 300 square metres of gorse land.

A spokesman for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "4t one point we had four main jets and one hose reel at the scene. The fire was on scrub land on what residents call the Peartree estate. It was approximately 300 square metres of land olight."

alight."
Firefighters are warning people about the dangers of deliberately starting a fire in open areas following a blaze at a Black Country nature reserve. Three crews from Dudley and Haden Cross fire stations were called to Saltwells Nature Reserve on Fri-

day night to tackle a bush fire.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "Arson is a crime. If you see someone deliberately setting a fire, report it to fire and police immediately.'

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Flooding wreaks havoc after pipe bursts on major road

closed until Tuesday after a burst water pipe caused havoc across the region. Flood water wrecked homes

and drivers faced long delays after the pipe burst close to the

atter the pipe burst close to the busy Burnt Tree Junction. Water was up to a foot deep in places along the A4123 New Bir-mingham Road in Tividale. The burst water main saw water

gush through five houses in the nearby area with living rooms and kitchens affected.

Oakthorpe Gardens – backing onto the New Birmingham Road – was hit after the water fell down a bank behind the homes.

Water was 'graybing' through

wans centred the homes.

Water was 'gushing' through
Frances Markley's house in the
street, which backs onto the Birmingham New Road.

mingham New Road.

The devastated 86-year-old's home was the worst affected by the burst pipe and water was up to four

burst pipe and water was up to four inches deep in her kitchen.

She said: "The girl down the way knocked round on my door at 5.30am and asked if I was all right.

"I asked why and she said there was all water everywhere. It was coming off the New Road.

"My lounge and kitchen is all soaked – it was about three or four inches in the kitchen. My carpet is soaking wet. It all came from off the main road. The water was gushing and took my wheelie bin from outside my kitchen door.

"We want to smile really – I had

"We want to smile really – I had someone coming to wash my con-servatory and clean the slabs in the

garden today.

"It's upset me but it could have been worse I suppose."



Water outside homes in Oakthorpe Gardens, in Tividale, following the Birmingham New Road burst



A view of the problems caused by the burst pipe Residents living on the A4123 and in Oakthorpe Gardens woke just after 4am to see the pipe had burst

by mid-morning. A spokesman for South Staffs Water said:

"The company is aware of the impact and the inconvenience caused by the traffic diversion while its teams remain on site and work to repair the burst water main. "South Staffs Water apologises



Workmen getting to the root of the problem

for any inconvenience and is work-ing hard to resolve this as soon as possible."

Thousands of motorists travel through the Burnt Tree junction each week taking traffic between Wolverhampton, Dudley, Oldbury and Birmingham.

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and emergency services arrived

Some homes in the area were also temporarily left without water sup-ply. It was restored at most homes

around 5am.

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DAMAGE to homes caused by council-owned trees in the Black Country and Staffordshire has cost the taxpayer more than £320,000 in just four years.

more than £320,000 in just four years.

New figures reveal the cash settlements made by councils, including £18,776 in Sandwell for a tree which fell on a garage and home. Walsall Council paid out £18,200 for damage caused to a patio by roots and Dudley Council £14,450 for property subsistence caused by roots.

Wolverhampton Council did not pay out for one claim relating to home damage caused by trees.

In Walsall, where the council settled £93,683 over 37 cases, Councillor Louise Harrison, cabinet member for the environment, said: "The council's approach to tree risk management ensures it meets its statutory obligations as a responsible tree owner, as detailed in Walsall's Urban Forestry Strategy."

Tree damage costs taxpayers £320,000 parking fines in one street

most £70,000 in fines over the past three years in one

Motorists penalised for parking illegally in Bridge Street have had to pay out a total of £69,884 since 2015.

forked out £138,521 in 2015/16, rising the following year to £154,465 and again last year to £163,517.
A Freedom of Information request

revealed the places where drivers are most likely to be collared by traffic wardens.

by drivers falling foul of traffic wardens on High Street.

A total of £578,349 worth of fines was paid to Walsall Council last year.

Light Street fines have brought in £69,168, since 2015/16. making up

Fraser Street, Lichfield Street, Station Street, Bradford Street, Goodall Street, Hatherton Street and Tower

Figures also revealed Walsall Council made £725,957 from parking charges both on streets and car parks in 2017/18.

Labour councillor Diane Cough-lan said: "Parking restrictions are in place and if people are not going to adhere to them unfortunately they have got to be fined.

DRIVERS have paid out al- On the top 10 roads alone, drivers street in Walsall.

A similar amount was forked out

A similar amount was forked out

A similar amount was forked out

Bridge Street has risen over each

Health trust makes 15 apology over death | 3

A MENTAL health trust which failed to respond to a young woman who then killed herself has apologised to her fami-ly. Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership has also carried out a 'thorough investigation' following the death of Katarzyna Woloncewicz.

of Natarzyna woionewicz.

An inquest heard how the 20-year-old, from Halesowen, had called the trust's Dudley Talking Therapy Services multiple times but never received a call-back. Suffering de-

multiple times out never received a cair-back. Suitering de-pression and anxiety, she was found dead from asphyxia on March 29 this year, weeks before turning 21.

A spokesman for the trust said: "The death of Katarzyna was a very tragic event and we would like to repeat our sincerest condolences to her family. We have completed a thorough investigation and will be making improvements.

At the inquest at Black Country Coroners Court, assis-ant coroner Emma Whitting said Kasia committed suicide.



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Also available to purchase is a fixing kit which includes 3 x Pad Eyes, 3 x Turnbuckles and 6 x Snap hooks (3m triangle sun shade). 4 x Pad Eyes, 4 x Turnbuckles and 8 x Snap hooks (3m square sun shade). 4 vour sun shade sail can be fixed to solid structures such as concrete or wooden beams. These galvanised steel fixtures are extremely strong. See online for more sizes in this range.

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The four person hamper has forty pieces, including four ceramic plates, four forks, four knives, four spoons, four plastic wine glasses and four napkins. It also includes a cool bag, corkscrew and PVC-backed gingham picnic blanket. Both hamper sizes are available in two colours. Choose from either a natural brown basket, lined with red, blue and white gingham, or a grey basket with a blue, grey and white gingham lining.

Two person hamper measures L40 x W28 x H20.5cm. Four person hamper measures L46 x W36 x H21cm. The blankets included are machine washable at 40°C.

G3202 Natural Two Person Hamper £49.99 Was £79.99 G3203 Grey Two Person Hamper £49.99 Was £79.99 G3204 Natural Four Person Hamper £69.99 Was £99.99 G3205 Grey Four Person Hamper £69.99 Was £99.99





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AT YOUR LEISURE

Star-studded The boys are back in town-Iron Maiden at Genting Arena summer in the inner city

A series of big name concerts are being held in Birmingham city centre during August and September, called the Skyline Series.

Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys, James Arthur, Garbage and The The are coming to Digbeth Arena for a series of open-air inner city concerts, whilst Texas and Imelda May have changed venue to play Symphony Hall under the Skyline banner.

First up on August 24 is music legend Brian Wilson, peforming the classic Pet Sounds album. Support from Turin Brakes.

On August 25 the bill topper is James Arthur, who won The X Factor in 2012. He has grown into an accomplished musical artist with hits including Impossible, You're Nobody 'til Somebody Loves You, Say You Won't Let Go and Naked.

A week later, on September 1, Sharleen Spiteri's Texas team up with rockabilly rebel turned torch singer Imelda May. Glasgow's Sharleen and co will be bringing the tour for their latest album Jump On Board to Brum, after Dublin's Imelda sings songs from her Life Love Flesh Blood album. Support from British country dup Ward Thomas

British country duo Ward Thomas.

Matt Johnson's 80s hitmakers The The team up with Field Music in Digbeth on September 7. Fresh from accepting a career-crowning NME Icon Award award, Shirley Manson brings Garbage to the city centre venue on September 8. Support from Maximo Park and Honeyblood.

Maximo Park and Honeyblood. See www.skyline-series.com



We've still got passion

IRON MAIDEN will return to Birmingham to headline the city's Genting Arena on Tuesday.

Following the massively successful global tour of 2016-17 in support of their 16th studio album The Book Of Souls, Iron Maiden are back on the road again with the Legacy Of The Beast World Tour.

The concept for the tour was inspired by Maiden's mobile game and comic book of the same name, and the stage set design will feature a number of different but interlocking 'worlds'

Their set list will cover a large selection of

1980s material with a handful of surprises from later albums.

Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain says the band are enjoying their present tour, having started on May 26 in Tallinn, Estonia, in front of a 10,500-capacity crowd at Saku Suurhall.

At that gig, they kicked off with Aces High, complete with a replica of the iconic Spitfire war plane suspended above the stage, which hadn't been performed since 2014, before continuing with Where Eagles Dare, played for the first time in 13 years.

The show also included The Clansman, Sign Of The Cross, For The Greater Good Of God, The Wicker Man and Flight Of Icarus.

Nicko says: "We've got a lot of production, more so than we normally have. When I say 'production,' I mean lots of effects, lots of special staging.

"Of course, you've got all of the Eddies.
There's a lot of fireworks, a lot of wonderful
effects. Bruce has staged some wonderful
theatrics. But, for us, as a band, it gives us an
opportunity to play some of the older stuff we
haven't played in a long time."

He admits re-learning some of the high speed drumming has been challenging, adding: "I have to warm myself up because I am an old git. But the thing is with Maiden, we all still really, really have a passion to play live.

New look, old name for theatre

The New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham is undergoing a £650,000 revamp and will revert to its original name, The Alexandra.

Work has started on a new façade with digital signs, which will be completed this autumn when the popular venue on Suffolk Street Queensway is relaunched with a brand new logo.

The refurbishment will also see a complete facelift of the theatre's historic Grand Circle, with all seats and carpets replaced, improvements to the bar in the Old Foyer, a revamp of all dressing rooms, window improvements and intricate maintenance to the venue's chandelier.

The works follow a previous £1.25 million spend between 2013 and 2015, when the Piano Bar received a complete revamp complete with Baby Grand Piano and resident pianist.

Theatre director Lisa Mart said: "Since opening its doors in 1901, the Alexandra Theatre has become one of the most important and much-loved buildings in Birmingham. We are incredibly excited to have secured the investment to relaunch the venue in a way that not only modernises our external appearance but also celebrates our history by returning to our original name The Alexandra."

Major shows this year include Saturday Night Fever, Motown The Musical, Dirty Dancing, Rock of Ages, Fame the Musical, David Walliams' Awful Auntie and the stage version of TV favourite Benidorm.







The New Art Gallery Walsall Great for all the family



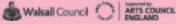
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- Mahtab Hussain Going back home to where I came from exhibition plus activities
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AT YOUR LEISURE



Cariss music videos show love for her home city

"I've got to give credit to my mum, it was her idea for the series."

It might not be seen as rock'n'roll to thank your mum for supporting your fledgling music career – but that sums up the humble attitude of Cariss Auburn.

Wolverhampton born-and-bred. the 27-year-old talks about her love of her home city and her passion for promoting Black History Month.

The 'series' she is talking about is her Wolverhampton Wanders project.

It involves Cariss taking her guitar and a local film crew to her favourite places in the city and performing a song that means something to her.

So far she's filmed four entries which are available on her website and YouTube. The first episode saw her take to the Light House media centre at the Chubb Buildings to perform Mary J Blige's Everything and Sweet Female Attitude's Flowers

Next up was her performing Water Baby by Tom Misch and Loyle Carner at WV Active Central, before No Doubt's Just A Girl at Wightwick

Manor and Solange's Don't Touch My Hair at the Grand Theatre.

"I've lived here all my life. I went away for uni but came back because it's home," said the former Highfields and Wolverhampton Grammar school pupil. "For this series I decided to connect with my past and visit places I have spent a lot of time at.'

Cariss will be appearing at the Live Vibe Festival at Zara's Bar Club in Birmingham on Sunday and is part of the Project Sound Lounge Festival at Birmingham Town Hall on August 18. Visit www.carissauburnmusic.com

Anton and Erin back to the music and

Strictly Come Dancing veteran Anton Du Beke has announced a major tour early in the new year with his dance partner Erin Boag.

Their latest production, Dance Those Magical Musicals, is scheduled for one West Midlands date at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday, January 26, with 2.30 and 7.30pm performances.

The nation's favourite ballroom couple present a tribute to musical theatre with stunning costumes and breath-taking choreography set to famous tunes from such iconic shows as Phantom of the Opera, Mary Poppins, 42nd Street, Wicked, Top

Hat, Hairspray and Jersey Boys.

Joining Anton and Erin on stage will

be the London Concert Orchestra, a sensational dance ensemble and star vocalist, Lance Ellington from TV's Strictly band and son of band leader Ray Ellington.

The show will also feature the popular 'Q and A' section which always leads to some fun interaction with the audience.
Anton said: "Get ready for West

End live on the dancefloor! Erin and I can't wait to bring our new show to a venue near you. Expect fabulous dancing, music and song,"

Fleet-footed Anton is the last remaining of the original professional dancers in the Strictly line-up and is due to return with the show in September. He made it all the way to the final with Katie Derham in 2015 but is yet to lift the Glitterball trophy.



Anton and Erin dance again

West End star Ruthie You only get an Ooo joins the Songsters

A West End and Broadway singing star will be joining a Black Country choir for a special show next month. The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir from

Kingswinford will be joined by Ruthie Henshall for Songsters on Broadway at Dudley Town Hall on

September 28 at 7.30pm.
Ruthi Henshall's glittering musical theatre began with Cats in London and includes major roles in Miss Saigon, Les Misérables, Oliver!, She Loves Me (for which she won an Olivier Award), and, most recently, Billy Elliot.

She is also about to become the only British actress to have played all three leading female roles in Chicago, as she has been cast as Mama Morton in the London production, having previously been Olivier Awardnominated for her role as Roxie Hart in 1998 and starring as Velma Kelly on Broadway in 1999.

The Dudley concert will also feature performers from West Midlands operatic societies. Tickets are £18 and £20 via 01746 763850, email gsmvchoir@gmail.com or online via boroughhalls.co.uk. the venue's box office.

with Adventure Time

Fans of Cartoon Network's surreal show Adventure Time can now explore the bizarre Land of Ooo themselves in new video game Adventure Time: Pirates of Enchiridion. Pendleton Ward's animated TV series has got a loyal cult following – and not only among children – who delight in its mind-bending imagery, colourful graphics, distinctive slang and dry wit.

Bandai Namco's Pirates of Enchiridion lets gamers set sail as they play as Finn, Jake, BMO and Marceline on a

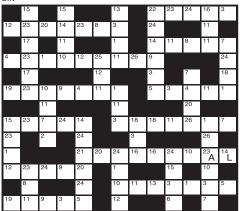
quest to save the melting Ice Kingdom. The game starts in a flooded Land of Ooo, in which the kingdoms are cut off from each other by rising waters, so Finn (the human) and Jake (the shape-shifting dog) set

sail to investigate 'what the junk went down'. Game play is simple and guided but what will really draw in fans are 3D visuals that perfectly match the look of the show and the involvement of the series' vocal cast. It feels like an interactive extended episode of Adventure Time. The game is available for Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Nintendo Switch and PC. Ĺ

Α

12

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 100 & 111 & 12 & 131 \\ \mathbf{R} & \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{J} & \mathbf{Y} & \mathbf{W} & \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{P} & \mathbf{K} & \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{N} & \mathbf{M} & \mathbf{L} \\ \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{E} & \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{O} & \mathbf{U} & \mathbf{S} & \mathbf{G} & \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{T} & \mathbf{Z} & \mathbf{F} & \mathbf{V} & \mathbf{A} \\ \end{bmatrix}$

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Pure description of
- one having no rash appearance (8) 5. It's an ingredient in
- oriental cosmetics (4) Constitute a
- bench (4) 10. Shocking derision from a militant Puritan (8)
- 11. I love to change into this material (5)
- 12. Made by craftsmen approximate in
- weight (7) 13. Fliers that give song near the southern border? (5-8)
- 18. Causes misery to ten involved in dreadful storm (8) 19. A route on
- holiday (4) 20. Devilish attribute of the wicked pupil? (4-3)
- 21. A group performing in the stalls (5)
 22. An indication
- of spontaneous ignition (4)
- 23. It's a prey to unusual harshness (8)

Down

- 2. Act as sponsor and do some upgrading (7)
- 3. Delay the sentence on a convict (4-3)
- 4. Being used at bedtime, it could provide the warmest starts! (5,8)
- 6. Feeling a thrill when there's a giant reformation by the French (7)
- 7. Originates a secret formula! (7)
- 8. Some of the foemen Tom blatantly put in 1. Hallow (8) a grave position (6)
- 13. Dogs from the streets (7)
- 14. Grace may come before this. sweetheart (7)
- 15. Football team partly cancel event (6)
- 16. Hide the real mixture (7)
- 17. He has no fancy ideas about a catalogue (7)

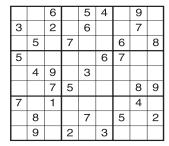
Quick Clues:

- 5. Ostentation (4)
- 9. Plot (4)
- 10. Custom (8)
- 11. Exclude (5)
- 12. Building (7) 13. Turmoil (5,2,6)
- 18. Friendly (8)
- 19. Achievement (4)
- 20. Bishopric (7)
- 21. Indefinite (5) 22. Ogle (4)
- 23. Agreed (8)

- 2. Illness (7)
- 3. Touch (7)
- 4. Poor memory (13)
- 6. Aperture (7)
- 7. Give (7)
- 8. Deed (6)
- 13. Disgrace (7) 14. Fatty (7)
- 15. Rubber (6)
- 16. Chorus (7)

Sudoku

AT YOUR LEISURE 19



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9

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;	SC	LL	JTI	10	۱S	>			
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	9	4	8	6	1	5	3	7	2
	7	2	6	8	3	4	1	9	Ę
	5	3	1	9	7	2	4	8	6
	3	8	7	1	9	6	2	5	4
	1	6	4	2	5	8	7	3	9
	2	5	9	7	4	3	6	1	8

Chronicle

Thursday, August 2,

, 2018

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pamela; 4 Staple; 9 Take a back seat; 10 Untuned; 11 Okapi; 12 Werrd; 14 Affix; 18 Roots; 19 Entrant; 21 Determination; 22 Liffted; 23 Stones. Down: 1 Put out; 2 Make the most of; 3 Learn; 5 Take-off; 6 Prevanication; 7 Entail; 8 Hardy; 13 Reserve; 15 Bridal; 16 Let in; 17 Stands; 20 Trait.
QUICK - Across: 1 Candle; 4 Result; 9 Afforestation; 10 Cortege; 11 Affer; 12 Rover; 14 Pear; 18 Upset; 19 Refusal; 21 Premeditation; 22 Tested; 23 League. Down: 1 Chance; 2 Nefariousness; 3 Large; 5 Emanate; 6 Uninteresting; 7 Tenure; 8 Askew; 13 Extreme; 15 Output; 16 Grain; 17 Plunge; 20 Frame.

Quiz

- What is a line of equal temperature on a map called?
- Of which race was Goliath champion? Which Italian region includes Naples and
- Capri? Which decorative work's name is derived from the Arabic for 'striped cloth'?
- Which singer was known as Lady Day?
- Who set a World Cup scoring record with five goals against Cameroon?
- On which day of the week is Thanksgiving Day held in the USA?
- In which country is the Orange River?
- In which country is the CERN nuclear research organisation based?
- 10. Who wrote Little Lord Fauntleroy in 1886?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Turkey; 2 Electron; 3 Ethiopia;

- 4 Kansas; 5 Dressage; 6 Humphry Davy;
- 7 Kidneys; 8 Musicals; 9 New York; 10 Barbra

Streisand

Niner: GRAPESHOT

17. Enactment (7) Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters

gives an element, gives a second element, gives a third element.







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AND FRIENDS OF HEDNESFORD PARK

Chronicle



Angela Carter

Angela Carter: Of Wolves (BBC2, 9pm)

Documentary looking at the life and career of the novelist. whose surreal imagination produced some of the most dazzling fiction of the 20th century. While Carter's early work drew on her claustrophobic childhood and miserable early marriage, it was her experience of living in Japan in the 1970s that liberated both her writing and her sexuality. The film includes rare archive footage and family photos, with contributions from Angela's friends, family and admirers - including Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie, Jeanette Winterson and Anne Enright, Narrated by Sally

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 European Championships 2018. Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, featuring the latest track oxcling events. multi-sports event in Glasgow, featuring the latest track cycling events. Commonwealth points race gold medallist Elinor Barker is expected to be in action at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and looking to claim the European title. 4.45 European Championships 2018. Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, as the men's 100m breaststroke swimming final takes place at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre. Olympic champion and world record holder Adam Peaty will be attempting to add another medal to his attempting to add another medal to his growing trophy cabinet, and will start as heavy favourite.

6.40 BBC News

6.50 Regional Programme

6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 European Championships
2018. Clare Balding and Gabby
Logan present continued live
coverage of day three of the
inaugural staging of the multisports event from Glasgow, where
medals are up for grabs in sports
including track cycling at the Sir
Chris Hoy Velodrome. Home favourite and defending European champion Katie Archibald will be looking to bring the house down in the women's individual pursuit

9.00 Casualty. Alicia plucks up he courage to tell the police that she has been raped. Eddie accompanies the paramedics who are called out to treat Jon's wife after she suffers serious burns – and is arrested on his return to the hospital. Bea leaves to make a fresh start in Paris, and Alicia receives an unwelcome visit that has devastating consequences. Last in the series.

BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.10 Film: Iron Man 3. (2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr and Gwyneth Paltrow.

12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) 7.05 Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. 7.35 The Dengineers. (R) 8.05 Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) 8.35 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) 9.00 European Championships 2018. 1.15 Kew on a Plate. (R) 2.15 Garden Rescue. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.45 Flog It! (R) 5.20 Great British Raliway Journeys. (R) 5.50 Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. (R) 6.50 Proms Extra. Katie Derham

Impossible: The Big Life Fix." (R)
6.50 Proms Extra. Katie Derrham focuses on the BBC SO tackling Shostakovich and two unconventional proms featuring folk music. She is also joined by Kerry Andrew, Golda Schultz and Pekka Kuusisto.
7.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring initiates a recruitment campaign, but makes the mistake of leaving Wilson in charge of the poster. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
8.00 Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain. Documentary telling the

Britain. Documentary telling the stories of specific bombs dropped on Britain during the Bitz, from their impact on individual lives through to the wider consequences for the Second World War. The first film follows a bomb that fell on Martindale Road in the Seat End of London on the Domb that reil on Martindale Road in the East Eand of London on the first night of the Blitz. There was relief that it remained unexploded – but tragedy was soon to follow. The story is told through first-hand testimony, diary excerpts and meticulous records kept at the time. (R)

9.00 Angela Carter: Of Wolves and Women. Profile of the author, featuring animated sequences inspired by her surreal stories and readings from previously unpublished letters and diaries. Narrated by Sally Phillips.

Narrated by Sally Phillips.

10.00 Alan Partridge: Why, When,
Where, How and Whom?

Documentary celebrating 25 years
of Steve Coogan's comic creation,
featuring contributions from
writers and co-stars and
previously unseen rehearsal and
improv footage. (R)

11.00 Live at the Apollo. (R) 11.45 Golf: Women's British Open Highlights. Eilidh Barbour presents action.

12.45 Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R) 1.35 Film: Jackpot. (2011) 2.55 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 Make It Pop. (R)
6.35 Dino Dana. (R) 6.50 Mission
Employable. (R) 6.55 The Oddbods
Show. (R) 7.05 MinjaGo: Possession. (R)
7.30 The Haunted Hathaways. (R) 7.55
Drop Dead Weird. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30
Zoe Ball on Saturday. 9.25 James
Martin's Saturday Morning. (R) 11.20
James Martin's American Adventure.
11.50 Eat, Shop, Save. (R) 12.20 Love
Your Garden. (R) 1.20 ITV News
Weather. 1.30 ITV Racing Live: Glorious
Goodwood. Coverage of the fifth day of
the event. 4.00 The Chase. (R) 5.00
WOS Wrestling.

WOS Wrestling. 6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme: Weather. Begional Programme; Weather.
 Japandemonium. A review of the best Japanese TV, showcasing some of the maddest and funniest moments ever broadcast. This episode includes displays of nasal weightfitting, a hole in the road, and a show in which real rockets are fired at people. Narrated by Melvin Odoom.

7.00 Big Star's Little Star. Stephen Big Star's Little Star. Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Sally Phillips, Samia Longchambon and Kian Egan spill the beans about their famous parents, talking about their framous parents, talking about their home lives, making heartwarming revelations or telling downright embarrassing stories. The contestants are all hoping to win as much money as possible for their chosen charities.

tor their chosen charities.

8.00 Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. (2013) The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally eight continue the quest to reclaim their lost kingdom; journeying through the forest home of ancestral enemy the elves and finally facing the dragen that drough them from them. enemy the elves and finally facing the dragon that drove them from their home. Meanwhile, Gandalf the wizard investigates the rise of a mysterious dark power. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, lan McKellen, Richard Armitage and Orlando Bloom.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.20 Film: Hard Target. (1993) An out-of-work merchant sallor investigates sadistic hunters who stalk human prey in New Orleans. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Yancy Butler.

1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Eternal Glory. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Triathlon: Hever Festival of Endurance. 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Ernsaler. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 12.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 1.25 Four in a Bed. (R) 1.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 1.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.00 Four in a

6.30 Channel 4 News

7.00 A Year in the New Forest. In winter, the trees are bare and many creatures are in hibernation, while those that are still awake must do all they can to survive. But as disease threatens to wipe

But as disease threatens to wipe out Ann's fragile young herd of cattle and the forest keepers begin the annual deer cull, death stalks the land. To ward off the cold and dark, the locals take part in an ancient tradition — a dangerous horse race across the forest.

My Family and the Galapagos.
Monty Halls tries to determine whether the ecosystems of the Galapagos can cope with the demands of an increasing number of people who live and visit the islands. He joins a survey team monitoring juvenile sharks, performs a terrifying dive at night, and takes his wife and daughters on a visit to the volcanoes of on a visit to the volcanoes of Isabella Island. The family also adopts a more self-sufficient lifestyle, as they start keeping chickens and growing their own food, and learning how to make small scale fishing sustainable.

9.00 Film: Sisters. (2015) Premiere Film: Sisters. (2015) Premiere.
Two estranged sisters are reunited
when their parents decide to sell
the house they grew up in. They
return to the family home to clear
out their childhood bedrooms, but
with their parents away, seize the
chance to relive their teenage
years and throw one last wild
house party. Comedy, starring
Amy Peehler.

11.20 Film: The Twilight Saga:
Breaking Dawn – Part 1. (2011)
Romantic fantasy sequel, with
Kristen Stewart.

1.25 The Last Leg. (R) 2.20 The Big Narstie Show. (R) 3.15 Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (R) 10.35 Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) 11.25 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.20 Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) 4.20 Rad Fenants. Slum Landlords. (R) 4.20 Rad Fenants. Roque Landlords. (R) 5.20 Can't Pay'? We'll Take It Away! (R) 5.20 Can't Pay'? We'll Take It Away! (R)

SATURDAY'S TV AUGUST 4

5.20 Can't Pay? We'll take it Away! (n)
6.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
Agents visit a former professions
footballer who owes £4,500 in
unpaid legal fees, and in London
the officers chase up a £4,000
debt owed by a car dealer. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India Mark Nicholas presents action from the fourth day of the First Test in the five-match series, taking place at Edgbaston. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly, Ebony Rainford Brent and Charles Dagnall.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 Blind Date. A familiar face makes a comeback, as Devorshka from series one returns to pick another date, hoping it will be more successful than her last one. Her potential suitors this time are entertainment manager Wes, life coach Richard and a surprise blast from the past. Also hoping to be picked are Kate from Gloucester, Welsh nurse Sarah and Bath beautician Lucie. Presented by Paul O'Grady.
9.00 Ging's Win Your Wish I ist Ging

9.00 Gino's Win Your Wish List. Gino D'Acampo hosts this game show in which a family of five contestants choose their dream prizes, then in pairs answer questions to try to bank the items on their wish list. In the final round, two players try to secure all the prizes they have won so far – as well as a dream family holiday.

10.00 The Women with the World's Biggest Hips. Documentary about four plus-size women who are proud of their figures and make the most of them, including one whose hips are eight feet in circumference. (R)

11.05 Too Fat to Work & On Benefits.
The lives of people who rely on

The lives of people who rely on benefits, beginning with those who are obese, including a man who thinks employers are prejudiced against fat people. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Body Donors. (R) 4.45 House Doctor. (R)

7.00 Mountain: Life at the Extreme 8.00 Wonders of the Monsoon 9.00 Cardinal: Blackfly Season 10.25 The Summer of Love: How Hippies Changed the World 11.25 Top of the Pops: 1986 12.25 Lazz Divas Gold 1.25 Mountain: Life at the Extreme 2.25 Wonders of the Monsoon 3.25 Top of the Pops: 1986 3.55 Close 1TV2

ITV2

12.00 Catchphrase 12.40 You've Been Framed! Gold 1.45 Film: Yog! Bear (2010) 2.45 FYI Daily 2.50 Film: Yog! Bear (2010) 2.45 FIM: Daily 2.50 Film: Yog! Bear (2010) 2.45 FIM: Doily 2.50 Film: Yog! Bear (2010) 2.45 FIM: Doily 4.30 Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 4.25 FYI Daily 4.30 Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 5.10 Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones (2002) 7.55 Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) 8.55 FYI Daily 9.00 Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) 10.00 Keith Lemon: Coming in America 10.50 Family Guy 12.20 American Dail 1.15 Evil Monkeys 2.10 CelebAbility 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen ITV3

11V3
12.20 Goodnight Mister Tom 2.30
Inspector Morse 7.00 Midsomer Murders
9.00 Endeavour 11.00 Vera 1.05 George
and Mildred 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30

17V4

2. 00 Storage Wars: Texas 1. 25 Pawn
Stars 3. 15 Film: Battle of Britain (1969)
4.15 F/I Daily 4.20 Film: Battle of Britain (1969)
4.15 F/I Daily 4.20 Film: Battle of Britain (1969) 5.55 Monster Carp 7.00 World
Series of Darts: Auckland 11.00 Film:
Above the Law (1988) 12.00 FYI Daily
12.05 Film: Above the Law (1988) 1.05
Better Late Than Never 2.00 Minder 2.50
ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
1.00 The Goldbergs 3.30 The Big Bang
Theory 8.00 Film: X-Men 2 (2003) 10.40
The Inbetweeners 11.50 Gogglebox 2.00
Tattoo Fixers on Holiday 3.00 The
Inbetweeners 3.55 Rude Tube 4.20
Rude(ish) Tube 4.45 How I Met Your
Mother

Film4

Film4

1.00 Arrietty (2010) 1.00 Rio (2011)

2.50 Capture the Flag (2015) 4.40 Young
Sherlock Holmes (1985) 6.55 Home
Alone (1990) 9.00 Transporter 3 (2008)
Underworld courier Frank Martin
transports the kidnapped daughter
of a crooked government minister
across Europe. Action thriller sequel,
with Jason Statham and Natalay
Rudakova. 11.05 The Cabin in the Woods
(2012) 12.35 Spirited Away (2001) 3.25
Close

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SUNDAY'S TV AUGUST 5

CHOICE

Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams (Channel 4, 7pm)

Arthur Williams

New series, A former royal marine explores Britain from the air in his own 1943 singleseater aeroplane. His journey begins in the West Country, taking in the rolling hills and open plains of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, Along the way he meets fellow aviation enthusiasts, including an aerobatic champion, a Cotswold craftsman who makes wooden propellers, and a man working on a jet-propelled flying suit. He also attends a public flying display and attempts a landing on a reproduction aircraft carrier.

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 BBC News. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 11.25 Songs of Praise. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. St Helens V Catalans Dragons (Kick-off 12.30pm). 2.30 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 2.45pm). 5.00 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 5.50 BBC News.

- Ĉelebrities. (R) 5.50 BBC News.
 6.05 Regional Programme.
 6.15 Countryfile. The show comes from East Yorkshire, where John Craven meets Bridlington residents who take traditional coble boats out to sea, Margherita Taylor uncovers a secret art trail in the Wolds and meets poet lan MacMillan, and Steve Brown learns about different uses for hemp. Plus, Charlotte Smith reports on the impact of tourism on beauty spots and Adam Henson on beauty spots and Adam Henson meets a farmer with an active
- 7.15 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Trellssick House and gardens in Cornwall, with unusual finds ranging from an ejector seat from a bomber to a miniature sewing kit.
- 8.15 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins.
 (2016) Premiere. A tone deaf socialite imagines she is a great singer, and her conniving yet devoted husband allows her to remain in her fantasy by holding concerts with small, invited audiences. However, reality threatens to intrude when she threatens to intrude when she announces her intention of realising a lifelong dream of performing in New York's Carnegie Hall, recruiting a struggling young planist to aid her. Fact-based comedy, starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

10.00 BBC News.

10 20 Regional Programme

10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 MOTD: Community Shield Highlights. Manchester City v Chelsea. Gary Lineker presents action from the curtain-raiser to the top-flight campaign, as the Premier League and FA Cup winners clashed at Wembley Statistics. Stadium

11.15 Imagine: Jeanette Winterson – My Monster and Me. Writer Jeanette Winterson talks about her childhood in Lancashire. (R)

12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) 7.05 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.05 Countryfile. (R) 9.00 European Championships 2018. Live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring rowing, track cycling, swimming, synchronised swimming and gymnastics. 12.15 European Championships 2018. Further live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring road cycling, synchronised swimming, rowing and gymnastics. 5.00 European Championships 2018. Gabby Logan and Clare Balding introduce further live coverage of day four of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, as trackly-sling and swimming dominate the schedule this eventing.

9.00 Travels in Trumpland with Ed Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls. Ed investigates America's gun culture, travelling to Louislana, the state with the highest statistics for gun murders. He goes on patrol with a sheriff's deputy, who discusses the challenges of policing a heavily armed population, and spends the night in jall with some Trump supporting criminals. He moves on to Parkland in Florida, where he meets survivors of a recent school meets survivors of a recent school shooting who are campaigning for stricter gun ownership laws.

10.00 Film: Nightcrawler. (2014) A cynical petty crook is inspired when he sees a freelance camera crew, and decides to go into business filming crime scenes and Dusiness mining crime scenes and accidents, then selling the footage to news broadcasters. His determination to stay ahead of the competition leads him down a dark path as his methods become increasingly ruthless. Crime drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo and Bill Paxton.

Rene Russo and Bill Paxton.

1.50 Golf: Women's British Open
Highlights. Eliidh Barbour
presents action from the fourth
and final day of the event, which
this year is staged at Royal Lytham
& St Annes Golf Club in

Lancashire 12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. The team visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends a residential course teaching children outdoor skills and Margherita Taylor goes in search of the UK's most endangered butterfly. (R) 1.45 Holby City. Fletch is shocked by a face from his seat and Hapseen attempts to express

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty, 6.10 Make It Pop. (R)
6.35 Dino Dana. (R) 6.50 Mission
Employable. (R) 6.55 The Oddbods
Show. (R) 7.05 MinjaGo: Possession. (R)
7.30 The Haunted Hathaways. (R) 7.55
Drop Dead Weird. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30
Zoe Ball on Sunday. 9.25
Japandemonium. (R) 9.50 Cannonball
Splash Hits. (R) 10.55 Ninja Warrior UK.
(R) 12.00 WOS Wrestling. (R) 1.00 TV
News; Weather. 1.15 Big Star's Little
Star. (R) 2.15 Gatchphrase. (R) 3.00
Tenable. (R) 4.00 Tipping Point: Lucky
Stars. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R)
6.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of

6.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul helps to train an over-excited beagle, and also meets a toy poodle and a pug that came in as a pair but might be better off finding new homes separately. (R)

- 6 30 ITV News: Weather
- Regional Programme; Weather 7.00 Midsomer Murders. The murder Midsomer Murders. The murder of Midsomer resident and biscuit factory boss Eric Calder leads Barnaby and Nelson to Copenhagen. The pair join forces with local female detectives Birgitte Poulsen and Anna Degn in the hunt for the killer, and during the course of their investigation they discover the businessman had numerous links to the capital. Anglo-Danish collaboration originally shown to mark Midsomer's 100th episode, guest starring Ann Eleonora Jorcensen
- Midsomer's Touth episode, g starring Ann Eleonora Jorgen (The Killing), Birgitte Hjort Sorensen (Borgen), Sanjeev Bhaskar and Joanna Scanlan, alongside Neil Dudgeon. (R) 9.00 Unforgotten. As it becomes clear the suspects are lying, Jake goes in search of Tim Finch's ex-wife to hear her version of events - and uncovers disturbing information about Chris Lowe's past.

- 10.00 ITV News; Weather.

 10.20 Carry On Forever. A look at the golden age of the comedy franchise in the mid to late 1960s, with Amanda Barrie revealing what life was like on the set of Carry On Cleo. (R)
- Cleo. (R)

 11.20 Tonight at the London Palladium.
 Bradley Walsh welcomes the cast
 of 42nd Street to the famous
 stage, headed by Sheena Easton.
 Plus, music from Rick Astley,
 Imelda May and US vocalist Lea
 Michele. (R)

 12.10 Jackpot247.3.00 Motorsport UK.
 (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. 6.40 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) Earnily comedy sepule Staring Zachary Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. 3.25 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 5.30 Homes by the Med

6.30 Channel 4 News.

- 5.3U Channel 4 News.
 7.00 Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams. New series. A former royal marine explores Britain from the air in his own single-seater aeroplane. His journey begins in the West Country, where he meets an aerobatic champion.
- an aerobatic champion.

 8.00 Hidden Britain by Drone. New series. Tony Robinson presents a second series of the programme that uses drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. In the first episode, he dispatches flying cameras to explore an abandoned theme park, an immense stately home and underground wine vaults belonging to billionaires. The programme also examines the secrets that Argos conceals from the eyes of its customers and contains footage of a flower farm in full bloom, which is closed to the public for 50 weeks of the year.

 9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Offred is
- 9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Offred is sent to a familiar place, while Emily is assigned to a mysterious new house. Guest starring Bradley Whitford (The West Wing).
- 10 10 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the wordsand numbers-quiz, inviting Sean Lock and Rob Beckett to take on Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman. (R)
- 11.10 The Shopping Centre: Artist in Residence. Artist Rachel Maclean spends a month living in Birmingham's Bullring Shopping Centre, and makes a film exploring happiness with the help of a large pink rabbit. Last in the
- series.

 12.15 Film: Devil's Knot. (2013) 2.15
 Film: Chevalier. (2015) 4.00 Gillette
 World Sport. 4.30 Selling Houses with
 Amanda Lamb. (R) 5.25 Star Boot Sale.
 (R) 5.50 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Little Princess. 6.10 Wissper. (R) 6.20 Poppy Cat. (R) 6.30 Milkshakel Monkey. (R) 6.35 The Secret Life of Kittens. (R) 6.40 Seaside Antics. (R) 6.45 Olly the Little White Van. (R) Milkshakel Monkey, (R), 6.35 The Secret Life of Kittens, (R) 6.40 Seaside Antics. (R) 6.45 Olly the Little White Van. (R) 6.50 Simon, (R) 7.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 7.05 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.15 Thomas & Friends: Extraordinary Engines, (R) 7.30 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.50 Rusty Rivets. (R) 8.00 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.20 Pirata & Capitano. 8.35 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.50 Floogals. (R) 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.30 Dipby Dragon. (R) 9.50 Peppa Pig. (R) 110.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 110.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 110.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 110.00 Feppa Pig. (R) 10.05 Temage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.40 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.25 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.25 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.20 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Concluded. (2.1010) 1.20 Access. 1.25 Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) 3.25 Access. 3.30 Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) 5.75 Film: Tars. (2004) Concluded. **4.30 Film:** Cars. (2006) **5.30** Access. **5.35 Film:** Cars. (2006) Concluded.

6.10 Chuckle Time with the Chuckle
Brothers. The comedy duo
introduce this new clip-show,
featuring the funniest fails, flops and falls uploaded to the internet. 6 55 5 News Weekend

Action from the fifth day of the First Test in the five-match series taking place at Edgbaston.

8.00 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) A rogue captain and a blacksmith set sail to rescue a governor's daughter from feared supernatural pirates. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.

5 News Update.

9.05 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean The Curse of the Black Pearl.

10.50 Film: Green Lantern. (2011) A pilot joins a galactic peacekeeping force with incredible powers and defends Earth from an alien attack. Sci-fi adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively.

11.50 Access. Showbiz news and

11.55 Film: Green Lantern. (2011)

1.05 SuperCasino. 3.10 Autopsy: The Last Hours of Joan Rivers. (R) 4.00 Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R)

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2018 9.00 Archaeology;
A Secret History 10.00 Entertaining the
Troops 11.00 Arena: Whatever Happened
to Spitting Image? 12.00 Africa's
Magnificent Beasts 1.00 Timeshift: The
Ladybird Books Story – The Bugs That
Got Britain Reading 2.00 Arena:
American Epic 3.00 Archaeology; A
Secret History 4.00 Close

ITV2

1.35 You've Been Framed! Gold 2.05
Film: Step Up Revolution (2012) 3.05
FYI Daily 3.10 Film: Step Up Revolution (2012) 3.05
FYI Daily 3.10 Film: Step Up Revolution (2012) 4.10 Film: The Smurfs (2011) 6.15 Film: The Smurfs (2011) 6.15 Film: Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith (2005) 7.15 FYI Daily 7.20 Film: Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith (2005) 9.00 Love Island: The Reunion 10.35 Family Guy 11.30 American Dadl 12.30 Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) 1.35 FYI Daily 1.40 Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) 2.10 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.25 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen Nightscreen

ITV3
12.50 Rosemary & Thyme 3.55 Victoria
5.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Agatha
Christie's Marple 10.00 The Halcyon
12.05 Wire in the Blood 1.50 Blue
Murder 3.35 Road to Avonlea 5.15 Judge
Judy 5.35 ITV3 Nightscreen

ITVÁ
11.50 River Monsters 12.55 Monster
Carp 2.00 Film: Battle of Britain (1969)
3.05 FYI Daily 3.10 Film: Battle of Britain
(1969) 4.40 Film: Escape to Victory
(1981) 5.40 FYI Daily 5.45 Film: Escape
to Victory (1981) 7.00 World Series of
Darts: Auckland. 11.00 Film: Payback
(1999) 12.00 FYI Daily 12.05 Film:
Payback (1999) 1.05 The Motorbike
Show 2.05 The Protectors 2.30 World
Cup Rivalines: Parazil v Italy 2.45 ITV4
Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

11.30 Film: Dr Dolittle (1998) 1.10 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 1.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 2.30 Young Sheldon 3.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Escape Plan (2013) 11.15 Gogglebox 12.20 The Big Bang Theory 1.10 Tattoo Fixers 2.15 Rude Tube 3.10 Hollyoaks

11.00 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) 1.00 Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties (2006) 2.35 Kiki's Delivery Service (1989) 4.45 Megamind (2010) 6.40 We Bought a Zoo

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YOUR

Pursday, August 2, 2018 Augus

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Family home has four bedrooms and two bathrooms

In need of some improvement, 8 Broad Lane, Bloxwich, is an extended modern detached fourbedroomed, two-bathroomed family home.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £260,000 with no chain. The property is located within easy reach of Bloxwich train station, regular bus routes to local towns, shops in the High Street and several primary and secondary schools.

This deceptively spacious property has accommodation which briefly comprises of an entrance hallway, a through lounge/diner, a conservatory, an extended kitchen, a utility room and a guest WC. To the first floor are four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

To the outside is a block paved driveway, a single garage and front and rear gardens. In more detail the home is built to an attractive red brick design.

The frontage has a good sized block paved driveway which is flanked by lawn, fencing and borders. The lounge has a Minton style fire surround housing a fire appliance. The room is carpeted and has a bay window overlooking the frontage.

The dining room has ample space for a table and chairs and has sliding aluminium windows opening to the conservatory.

The kitchen has modern white units, complemented by white coloured working surfaces. Built in wardrobes feature to some of the bedrooms.

Both bathrooms are spacious. One has a bath plus a separate shower enclosure. The other features a corner bath

A decorative full height metal gate to the side of the property opens to a pathway down the side.

The rear garden is spacious and well maintained, being flanked by fenced borders.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property.

BLOXWICH **£260,000**



KEY FEATURES

Modern detached

- 4 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms

Extended kitchen

In need of modernisation







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 Lounge with Balcony
 Kitchen
 Double Glazing
- Regent House, Green Lane, Walsall • EPC -83

 - Parking
 Close to Walsall Town
 EPC -83
 Sorry no DHSS







Prince Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen

- double glazing
 gas central heating
 Front Reception Room
 Rear Lounge
- DHSS Accepted
 Sorry No Pets/Smokers
 EPC 60
 Close to Walsall Town





Lounge with French Doors
 Bathroom with Shower



- 1st Floor Apartment
- Double GlazingGas Central HeatingAllocated Parking Entrance Hallway
 Secure Entrance
 - DHSS Accepted
 EPC-83



Four bedroom semi detached

- kitchen/dining room
 lounge with patio
 family bathroom
 en-suite
 gardens



- Three Bedroom Semi
 Three Bedroom Semi
 Porch entrance
 Fitted Kitchen
 Family Bathroom
 Sorry no DHSS
 EPC -TBA







e , Walsall

- Third Floor Apartmen
- Two Bedroom
 Walsall Town Centre
 Electric Heating
 Communal Entrance and Lift

- Balcony
 Shower room
 Double Glazing
 EPC-TBA
 Sorry no DHSS



, Willenhall, Wolverhampton

- Semi-detached house

- Semi-detacried nouse
 Two bedroom
 Located in a cul-de-sac
 Gas central heating
 Driveway and single garage
- Fitted Kitchen
 Dining Room
 Utility
 EPC-TBA
 Sorry no DHSS







- Front and Rear Gardens
 Off Road Parking
 Garage to side
 Sorry No DHSS Accepted
 EPC 83



- Double Glazing
 Front & Rear Gardens



Recently Refurbished Two Bedroom End- Terrace Modern Kitchen

- Lounge
 Double Bedrooms
 EPC- 66



- Broadway, Walsall

 Two Bedroom Apartment

 Double Glazing

 Communal Hallway with Lift
 Gas Central Heating













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Well-presented semi is close to amenities

WILLENHALL £140,000

A well presented two-bedroomed semi-detached property, 22 Croxley Gardens in Willenhall, lies close to amenities and local transport links.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley Estate Agents at offers over £140,000. Its living accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and a shower room.

Having double glazing and gas central heating, to the front of the property is a concrete print driveway providing parking for two vehicles, with double timber gates providing access to further parking and a garage. To the rear there is a fully enclosed garden with a pedestrian gate providing access to the frontage.

There is a pedestrian gate leading to the rear garden. Contact the agents on 01902 633323.









Family home benefits from corner plot in popular area

WALSALL £240,000

<<<

This stunning family home on a corner plot in Griffins Crescent, Walsall, is packed with the "wow factor".

It is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at offers over £240,000. It is situated in a sought-after cul-de-sac location on a popular development. Its accommodation briefly comprises a through hallway, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a guest WC, four bedrooms, a bathroom and an en-suite to the master

Outside, there is a private driveway, a garage and landscaped gardens. In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off. The lounge has a bay window to the front and French doors to the kitchen/diner.

This space has French doors to the garden, a log burner, wall, base and drawer units. Contact Webbs Estate Agents on 01922 663399.



New Kia Ceed now on sale in the UK

By Sharon Walters

Kia's Ceed has just entered its third generation and the South Korean firm has now revealed pricing and specifications for

On sale this week, the hatchback will start from $\mathfrak{L}18,295$ and be offered in four trim variants, with three engines and two gearbox options available.

Starting the range are '2' models. As standard, they're fitted with 16-inch alloy wheels, cruise control and a seven-inch touchscreen infotainment system with Bluetooth connectivity, along with support for Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

Special

Blue Edition trim comes next in the range and is a special-edition model at launch, bringing all the equipment over from '2' and adding 17-inch alloys, privacy glass, electric folding mirrors, rear parking sensors and LED headlights.

The infotainment screen is also upgraded to eight inches and gains a TomTom sat nav. As the name suggests, just the one colour is available for this trim - Blue Flame. It's priced from £21.095.

Following on is the '3' grade. This builds even further on the Blue Edition, adding rainsensing wipers, dual-zone climate control, LED indicators, an auto-dimming rear-view mirror and a 4.2-inch information display in the gauge cluster.

Pricing for '3' Ceed variants has yet to be confirmed, though.



The hatchback will start from £18 295



There are three engine options

At the top of the range is the limitedrun First Edition trim, available for a limited time following the launch of the

Taking all the equipment available on '3', First Edition cars gain tonnes of luxury extras - with the highlight being Kia's Smart Park Assist System, which allows the Ceed to automatically park itself in parallel and perpendicular spaces.

Other features include black leather electric seats. LED headlights, adaptive cruise control.

First Edition cars gain tonnes of luxury extras - with the highlight being Kia's Smart Park Assist System an electric sunroof, keyless start and an eight-speaker JBL audio system. First Edition

> As for engine choices, there are two petrol and a diesel. Petrol options are either a 1.0-litre or 1.4-litre unit, both turbocharged, with

models start at £25 750

the former exclusively paired to a six-speed manual gearbox, while the latter has the option of a seven-speed automatic alongside the

As for diesel, that's a 1.6-litre unit, available with both gearbox variants.

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MOTORING

A sensible car that's worth a look at

By James Parker

Vauxhall. Estate. Diesel. Not exactly words that get the heartstrings twanging, are

Yet those in the market for a truly sensible car – rather than an exciting or interesting one – would do well to consider them. This is the Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer - or estate, if you look past the marketing gobbledegook. It's based on the latest Mk7 Astra, giving it a good starting point to work from, and offers a range of efficient engines alongside a usefully practical body.

The Astra is one of the most popular car models in the UK's motoring history, so there's very little that won't feel instantly familiar to most buyers. Despite this, there's actually a lot that's changed over the previous-generation model, which this car replaced back in 2015. The Astra is 200kg lighter than the model it

replaces, and crucially for tech-savvy modern buyers the dashboard is far simpler and more

In the transition from hatch to estate, very little has changed - there's just that extra bodywork above the rear axle, along with a chrome styling line to mark this out as the Sports Tourer model.

There are a few petrol engines on offer, but provided you do enough miles we'd recommend the diesel engine that came with our test car. It's Vauxhall's own 1.6-litre 'Whisper' diesel, and it's ideally matched to the Astra - smooth, powerful enough and remarkably refined - a brief burble when setting off soon settles down. It's capable of 0-60mph in 9.3 seconds - not exactly speedy, but with a decent slug of mid-range torque you won't struggle to keep up with traffic.



The dashboard is easy to navigate

It's also very efficient, returning nearly 60mpg during our time with the car.

On the petrol front, there's a 1.0-litre threecylinder that's probably best avoided if you're planning on using the car's ample carrying capacity, a brace of 1.4-litre turbos and a 1.6-litre with 197bhp.

Given that this is an inherently sensible diesel estate car, you might be expecting it to be a bit rubbish to drive. But that's not the

The Astra is particularly well-balanced. remaining taut enough to resist body roll while staying comfortable over most surfaces. This car is a top-drawer motorway cruiser, with a relaxed sixth gear gait and decent refinement. There's a firm edge to the ride around town,

however, and the steering is a little over-light. It's this latter point that prevents the Astra from being really entertaining despite good grip in the corners

Vauxhall doesn't offer a sporting model of the Astra like it does with the Insignia, so if you



There's more than a passing resemblance to the larger Insignia Sports Tourer, which is no bad thing - it's a handsome

crave something with more panache you'll need to opt for a rival.

There's more than a passing resemblance to the larger Insignia Sports Tourer, which is no bad thing – it's a handsome car. The Astra's proportions are slightly less easy on the eye, with the stubby estate boot a fair bit less graceful than its bigger sibling. It also misses out on the latest Vauxhall corporate grille, instead opting for a double-bar arrangement that looks a little fussy.

A chrome line down the car's windowline

draws attention to the extra bodywork of the estate, while the tailgate is plain and inoffensive. Altogether, the Astra package is one which seems to be designed to be as undivisive as possible - it will blend in instantly in any company car park.

There's plenty of space for passengers with capacious rear seats. As for the dashboard design and styling, it's once again plain and inoffensive – though in this case, that's ideal as it means everything is exactly where you expect to find it.

The Astra gets a bad rap for being 'just another Vauxhall' but it honestly deserves more than that.

It's a good-to-drive and reasonably practical, with some of the best diesel engines available

Sure, it's not exciting – but not a lot in this class is, and the Astra's ubiquity and popularity mean it should be pretty dependable. If you're looking at a Golf or Focus Estate, think carefully about test-driving an Astra, too.



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Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 DIG. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

APP NO: 18/0872 BY: RUHEL AHMED FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM RETAIL (PLANNING USE CLASS A1) TO RESTAURANT/CAFE (PLANNING USE CLASS A3) AND TAKEAWAY (PLANNING USE CLASS A5) PLUS THE INSTALLATION OF AN EXTERNAL FLUE. AT 22, CRESSWELL CRESCENT, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WS3 2UW Deadline for comments on or before:

16th August 2018
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AND SOLE USE OF EXISTING OFF-SITE CAR PARK AT BROOK STREET
FOR INTENDED OCCUPIERS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH
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Allen challenges for the ball

Always popular with the fans

Ace Allen has lived his life through basketball

PLAYING in front of 5,000 fans, winning two British Basketball League play-off titles and earning five England caps for

For someone who didn't start playing basket-ball until his teenage years – because he was embarrassed about his height – Clive Allen en-

joyed a truly stellar career.

Growing up in the West Midlands, Allen began his sporting life playing football and trying to blend in with his classmates. But his talent would eventually

with his classmates. But his talent would eventually help him win a scholarship in America, leading to a 15-year career with the Birmingham Bullets when the sport was really rocking in the region. "When I was at school I hated being tall and I didn't want to be involved in anything that showed that," said Allen. "At Hillcrest School, in Netherton, there weren't too many black people and I didn't want to stand out any more, so I didn't start playing basketball until I left.
"Mike Landell who was a Great Britain basketball

oasketoall until 1 left.
"Mike Landell, who was a Great Britain basketball player from Dudley, was the person who got me into the sport. He encouraged me to go for my first trial when I was about 16 to 17.

Redundant

"But Dave Fisher, who was the coach at the time, said I wasn't good enough for the senior squad and I was also too old for the under-17s. I was told to come back in about a year."

back in about a year."

Allen is now head coach at West Bromwich Albion Allen is now nead coach at West Bromwich Albon Basketball Academy, which comes under the Sporting Albion umbrella and is directly linked with the football team. The 56-year-old has eaten, lived and breathed basketball since deciding to take the sport seriously and has come a long way from working in

"I was working at Grazebrookes Foundries in Dud-Twas working at Grazeorookes roundries in Dud-ley, but was made redundant, he said. "I started get-ting back into sport again and it was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports. I started playing in the Sandwell Central League for Sandwell Basketball

"I was playing in the Central League when the

SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

"It was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports'

other trial – and then offered me a contract. The first season I probably played, what felt like, five minutes, but every time I came on the crowd loved it because of the offers and bustle I mut in

but every time I came on the crowd loved it because of the effort and hustle I put in."

Allen's efforts eventually saw him land a scholarship to play at Northwest Nazarene University, in Idaho, which was a Christian College. He also studied to become a social worker. But his American adventure was cut short after his wife fell pregnant with his daughter, Dominique, who herself is now a Great Britain and England internations.

Britain and England international.

"My wife wanted our baby to be born in the UK so we came back from US a little early," said Allen, who played most of his career as a power forward or

who played most of his career as a power forward or at centre.

"I started playing for the Bullets again and playing in America was such a learning curve and it had transformed my game. At the time, in BBL, a lot of British players sat on the bench because it was taken over by Americans, like Premiership football today really."

"But we had a really strong team in the 90s, with Nigel Lloyd, Fab Flournoy, Tony Dorsey, Tony Simms and Reggie Kirk. But one of the main things was we

always had a really good relationship with each other and also the fans."

Allen – who enjoyed two stints with the Bullets, from 1985-87 and then 1988-2001 – first won the BBL play-off finals in 1995/96, but said the second title in 1997/98, also at Wembley Arena, was the pinnacle of

his playing career.
"A year later, however, the squad was left with just five senior players. But the lack of resources once

nals in 1998 was my greatest moment but a few years later, when it didn't work out with some of the Amerlater, when it didn't work out with some of the American players, it just left of five of us. That was Lloyd, Kirk, Simms, Flourney and myself. The Bullets also eventually went full circle because when Australian Harry Wrublewski took over he wanted to take the game from leisure centres and into arenas."

Allen's career was eventually ended due to a condi-tion called neurosarcoidosis, which affected his spine. But once his playing days were over he was able to refocus and become one of the Black Country's most prominent coaches.

After enjoying one last hurrah with the Black

Country Bears, winning the title after dropping down a division, he briefly joined Simms as coach at the Aston Athletics basketball team in 2005.

Aston Athletics basketball team in 2005. He became assistant coach at the Milton Keynes Lions under Lloyd, then general manager for the Birmingham Panthers, again under Lloyd, during their only season, from 2007/08. But a conversation with Jamie Bunch, sporting director of the Albion Foundation in 2009, that really shaped his coaching career.

Contact

"I dropped down a division and played for the Black Country Bears – and won a title – but I had been coaching all the way through and launched my own Big Sky Basketball academy. "I worked with more than 70 schools in one year

"I worked with more than 70 schools in one year covering Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

"Jamie Bunch then got in contact and wanted to follow the Sporting Lisbon way, where there were other teams affiliated with the club. I used to run basketball sessions at Sir Gilbert Claughton, which would end with a big tournament but they wanted to set up a team and take it more seriously.

"I wanted to push it too and through my connections at the Bullets I met Jamie.

"We only had two teams when we started at under-

'We only had two teams when we started at under-16 and under-18. Now we have 12, which goes from under-14s up to the men's, which are now linked with

"I also coach at Dudley College and Sandwell College too, so there is a bigger network for basketball

Bilbao bound Gavin's hometown warm-up

FRANKIE Gavin warms up for his European Welterweight Title fight later this year with a six round contest in his home city in September.

The 32-year-old Birmingham boxer takes on Kerman Lejarraga in the Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. But as Gavin, the former Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. But as Gavin, the former Commonwealth and British Champion, steps up camp, he will take part in a warm-up bout at the Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway, on September 16. Gavin said: "Camp is well under way and I'm determined. Lejarraga is my main focus but it's important to get back in the ring, blow off a few cobwebs and make a statement. November will soon come round and I'm going to Bilbao to bring the European Title home."

The four-fight dinner show, 'Bilbao Bound' will also feature Gavin's stablemate Brad 'Bosh' Thomas, Central Area Heavyweight Champion, Kash Ali, and Walsall super welterweight, Levi Ferguson.

Tickets are £65 to include a two-course Sunday lunch or £35 standard unreserved. Call 07900 741 617

Davis takes on role of managing misfits

Dominic Iorfa, Jordan Graham, Phil Ofosu-Ayeh, Michal Zyro and Ethan Ebanks-Landell are training separately from the first team in a 'group

three' section at Compton Park.
Wolves are working to, ideally, find permanent moves for the players.
Loan moves look the more likely scenarios for most of the group, which also contains Paul Gladon, Joe Mason, Connor Ronan and Sylvain Deslandes as

contains Paul Gladon, Job Mason, Connor Ronan and Sylvain Desiandes as well as some of the older under-23 players.

Boyhood Wolves fan Davis came close to landing the top job at Molineux back in 2013 when he was interviewed for the then-vacant head coach role after Dean Saunders was sacked. Davis was at one point odds-on favourite to get the job but missed out to Kenny Jackett.

It's understood that he is working full-time at Compton Park overseeing the group having been handed a temporary contract.

New boss kicks off Casuals campaign

WOLVERHAMPTON Casuals boss Dean Gill hopes to hit the ground running when the West Midlands League season kicks off.
Gill made the switch from Wednesfield at the end of the last campaign and the first batch of Premier Division fixtures have handed his new charges an opening-day clash at home to Wellington. After a trip to Wem, a visit to Tividale and a home clash with his former charges follow.
Gill said: "We are pleased with the opening set of fixtures. We start with a home game which is always good and hopefully we can get a good start. If we can get a decent start I would like to see us challenging in the top six."
Last season's Premier Division runners-up Tividale kick-off at Smethwick Rangers and, as well as the clash with Casuals, meet Black Country Rangers in the opening month. Tivi boss Dave King said: "It's a tough opening month, there is no doubt about that."
Black Country Rangers, fourth last season, start at Bilston Town Com-

Black Country Rangers, fourth last season, start at Bilston Town Com-



I've lived my life through basketball

Page 31



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DUSHALL OLYMPIC FIXTURES

1100	HALL GETWIN TO TEXTORIES
Aug 11	Banbury Utd H
Aug 14	Coalville TnA
Aug 18	St Neots Tn A
Aug 25	Royston Tn H
Aug 27	TamworthA
Sep 1	Biggleswade Tn H
Sep 15	Needham MktA
Sep 29	Stratford Tn H
Oct 6	Halesowen TnA
Oct 13	Lowestoft Tn H
Oct 16	Redditch UtdA
Oct 20	St Ives Tn H
Nov 3	Rushden & DiamondsA
Nov 10	Barwell H
Nov 17	LeistonA
Nov 19	Alvechurch H
Nov 24	Kettering Tn H
Dec 1	Bedworth UtdA
Dec 8	Hitchin Tn H
Dec 15	King's Lynn TnA Banbury UtdA
Dec 22	Banbury UtdA
Dec 26	Tamworth H
Dec 29	Coalville Tn H
Jan 1	Stourbridge A
Jan 5	Redditch Utd H
Jan 12	BarwellA
Jan 19 Jan 26	Leiston H
	AlvechurchA Rushden & Diamonds H
Feb 2 Feb 9	St Ives TnA
Feb 16	Bedworth Utd H
Feb 23	
Mar 2	Kettering Tn H Hitchin TnA
Mar 9	King's Lynn Tn H
Mar 16	Halesowen Tn H
Mar 23	Lowestoft TnA
Mar 30	Needham Mkt H
IVIAI 30	Needilalli MKL

Pics take control in friendly against champions Sporting

Stourbridge Biggleswade Tn

Stratford Tn

St Neots Tn.....

RUSHALL Olympic continued their pre-season campaign with a 3-0 victory at Wolverhampton Sporting Community.

It took just seven minutes for Pics to take the lead against last season's West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division Champions when Lewis Archer did well to set up Danny Waldron who made no mistake.

Pics were in control for long periods First were in control for long periods during the first half against stubborn opponents who restricted the visitors' chances.

Joe Hull got his name on the scoresheet after the restart as he touched home a Simeon Maye free-kick.

home a Simeon Maye free-kick.

There were plenty of substitutions as the second half went on and it wasn't until late on that Pics completed the scoring, Maye linking up well with former Wolverhampton Sporting Community man Kyle Delaney, who in turn played through Waldron and he made no mistake to make if 3.0

mistake to make it 3-0.

Willenhall, meanwhile, stormed back from 3-1 down to win a friendly against higher ranked Smethwick.

After an early Smethwick goal, Liam Hickman levelled. Then, after falling 3-1 behind, the Lockmen hit back through Tom Lawton.

Ben Browne equalised and won the game when a quick ball forwards picked him out and he cleverly lobbed the

Heartache as Pelsall miss out on Lord's

out at Lord's ended for another year.

The Birmingham League Division
Three outfit had battled their way to
within two games of a Village Knockout final showdown at the home of cricket but went down to Warwick-shire League side Fillongley.

Despite being on the road again, Pelsall went into the clash in confident mood on the back of a league success over Lichfield the previous day that included a stunning performance from off-spinner Ryan Brown who bagged 9-63, with the other wicket falling to a run out. Brown

claimed just one victim this time as in early trouble in their reply. They Fillongley were dismissed for 220 after being put into bat.

Skipper Danny Pennell (3-27) enjoyed the most success with the ball while Todd Henderson and Dan Wale picked up two wickets each. But Pelsall found themselves there wickets without adding a run.

SADDLERS CLI ROBINS' W

WALSALL ended their pre-season programme by securing a 2-1 victory over Cheltenham at Whaddon Road.

In what was an eventual afternoon for Saddlers trialist Tomas Egert, the defender gave away two penalties and came a whisker away from scoring af-

ter heading a corner against the post.

Cheltenham were left wondering how they weren't 2-0 up after 20 minutes with Jacob Maddox hitting the post and Manny Duku missing a spot-kick following an Egert foul.

But Nicky Devlin put the Saddlers ahead with a brilliant finish before the break with Andy Cook then doubling their advantage late in the

The Robins grabbed themselves a consolida-tion when Egert was harshly deemed to have fouled Jordon Forster. This time Brian Graham converted from 12-yards.

Heart

In a 4-4-2 formation, trialist Egert partnered Jon Guthrie at the heart of the defence while youngster Dylan Parker lined up alongside Andy Cook in attack. Former Liverpool and Middlesbrough youngster Tom Brewitt, who is also on trial, was named amongst the substitutes.

Cheltenham announced the signing of Liam McAlinden just an hour before kick-off with ex-Wolves man thrown straight into the starting XI.

The Robins had started well and they were presented with a glorious opportunity to open the scoring when Manny Duku rolled Egert in the box before being hauled down by the trialist. Duku dusted himself down to take the spotkick but fired wide of the left hand post.

Seconds before half-time, Walsall got their noses in front with Ismail teeing up Devlin who lashed in from the right side of the penalty area.

Saddlers doubled their lead with Maz Kou-hyar involved. The Afghanistan international found Ismail who saw a strike saved – but not held – by Scott Flinders in goal and Cook reacted quickest. Cheltenham pulled a goal back right at the end through Graham's penalty.



Goalscorer Andy Cook and Jon Guthrie in action for the Saddlers at Cheltenham

Boss Keates keen on adding to squad

Walsall will make permanent and loan signings as the big

numbers with Keates eager to sign two defenders, a midfielder and a striker.

The boss was said to be close to signing a number of play-

also revealed he had a number of loanees lined up if deals fell

BOSS Dean Keates is confident ers on a permanent basis but Sunderland. The 45-year-old made 533 appearances for the Saddlers in two separate spells

> the goalkeeping coach at League Two Lincoln. But he has now been added to the back-room team at Sunderland following the appointment of Jack Ross

Brothers in arms boost survival bid

WALSALL boosted their Birmingham League Premier League survival hopes with an eight-wicket win over Dorridge who were skittled for 82 by Paul Byrne (5-11) and his brother Robbie (4-2). Af-ter the early loss of Shoaib Akhtar, a second wicket stand of 74 between another pair of brothers Billy Cox (51 not out) and Danny Cox (31) guided Walsall to a valuable 20 points without the help of

valuable 20 points without the help of the rain.

In division two, a captain's innings from Craig Moore (84 not out) led Streetly out of a hole. Walmley's Mohammed Fahim Jan (3-23) reduced the visitors to 8-3 before Moore led the recovery to 168. An excellent opening spell from Sagar Mangalorkar (3-26) left Walmley on 32-3 but an unbeaten 62 from Andrew Hendry had taken them on to 99-3 in 20 overs when the match was abandoned as a draw.

The third division match between Handsworth and Pelsall ended in a draw with Handsworth hanging on at 162-9,

Handsworth and reisan ended in a draw with Handsworth hanging on at 162-9, from 44 overs, Tom Boyd with 4-28, in reply to Pelsall's 231 all out, Dan Wale with 50 and Todd Henderson 42.

Aldridge were hit by the rain in their Staffs Clubs Championship game at bome to Penn

Staffs Clubs Championship game at home to Penn.

Jack Handsaker top-scored with 56 in an Aldridge total of 186 all out in 44.2 overs. But the visitors were set a revised target of 134 in 36 overs and duly responded, winning by eight wickets in

Thomas Fellows scored 68 in Bloxwich's 179, but Hammerwich needed a revised target just a120 to win by nine

Walsall YPF's good run of form ended as they were bowled out for 128. Old Wulfs & Tettenhall replied with 278-8.

Wullis & Tettennall replied with 2/8-8. Codsall were 111 all out in reply to Tamworth 3rd XI's 256-8.
Rushall's innings of 195-6 was enough to beat Whittington Seconds (231) thanks to a revised targe

Rugby sides travel for Vase clashes

BLOXWICH and Aldridge face away trips in the RFU Junior Vase.

Dixonians take on Bloxwich on September 22, while Aldridge head to Coventry to play Trinity Guild.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford Thursday, August 2, 2018



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through. "I'd like to think we'll add a few bodies this week," as a player.

Walker had been working as kick-off looms. The Saddlers squad is light on Keates said.

Meanwhile, Walsall's record appearance holder Jimmy Walker has been confirmed as the new goalkeeping coach at

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For more information please contact Mr Paul Gibbons Email: paul@initialfire.com or Tel: 07939 488659

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Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Lister Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Managemen Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Application can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.
walsall,gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email:
planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning,
Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 DIG. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

APP NO: 18/0872 BY: RUHEL AHMED FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM RETAIL (PLANNING USE CLASS A1) TO RESTAURANT/CAFE (PLANNING USE CLASS A3) AND TAKEAWAY (PLANNING USE CLASS A5) PLUS THE INSTALLATION OF AN EXTERNAL FLUE. AT 22, CRESSWELL CRESCENT, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WS3 2UW Deadline for comments on or before:

16th August 2018
APP NO: 17/1573 BY: Total Homes and Developments FOR: DEMOLITION
OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 236
ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS. ON-SITE CAR PARKING
AND SOLE USE OF EXISTING OFF-SITE CAR PARK AT BROOK STREET
FOR INTENDED OCCUPIERS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH
ASSOCIATED WORKS AT. SITE OF FORMER ARGYLE WORKS, WILLIAM HOUSE AND GREATREX HOUSE, CORNER OF NAVIGATION STREET AND MARSH STREET, WALSALL, WS2 9LT Deadline for comments on or before

GEOFFREY MOSS

GEOFHEY MOSS
(Deceased)

(Deceased)

(Deceased)

(Deceased)

Fursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of flat 33 Braedoum House Plane Tree Road Walsall W55 4EP, who died on 28/02/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or bottoe 05/10/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims will be distributed having regard only to claims.

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Acceptance The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company rill not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions

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inspection is not permitted or in in the Company's opinion the provision of urturary advertising lacilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.

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Delication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday

Office and the preceding Saturday

I classified Display - By no later than 12 hours before the date of publication
Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please
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Standards Authority.

1. Payment The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.

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Ustate Protection Act in a dovertiser's details will be retained by the Company for
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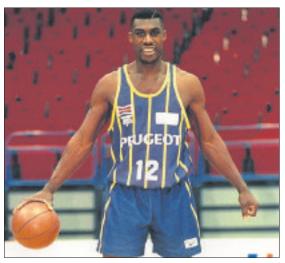


Allen with daughter, Dominique, who is a Great Britain and England international





Allen challenges for the ball



Always popular with the fans

Ace Allen has lived his life through basketball

PLAYING in front of 5,000 fans, winning two British Basketball League play-off titles and earning five England caps for

For someone who didn't start playing basket-ball until his teenage years – because he was embarrassed about his height – Clive Allen en-

joyed a truly stellar career.

Growing up in the West Midlands, Allen began his sporting life playing football and trying to blend in with his classmates. But his talent would eventually

with his classmates. But his talent would eventually help him win a scholarship in America, leading to a 15-year career with the Birmingham Bullets when the sport was really rocking in the region. "When I was at school I hated being tall and I didn't want to be involved in anything that showed that," said Allen. "At Hillcrest School, in Netherton, there weren't too many black people and I didn't want to stand out any more, so I didn't start playing basketball until I left.
"Mike Landell who was a Great Britain baskethall

oasketoall until 1 lett.
"Mike Landell, who was a Great Britain basketball player from Dudley, was the person who got me into the sport. He encouraged me to go for my first trial when I was about 16 to 17.

Redundant

"But Dave Fisher, who was the coach at the time, said I wasn't good enough for the senior squad and I was also too old for the under-17s. I was told to come heal; in short a year!

was also too bill for the thicker-17s. I was told to come back in about a year."

Allen is now head coach at West Bromwich Albion Basketball Academy, which comes under the Sporting Albion umbrella and is directly linked with the football team. The 56-year-old has eaten, lived and breathed basketball since deciding to take the sport seriously and has come a long way from working in

"I was working at Grazebrookes Foundries in Dud-ley, but was made redundant," he said. "I started getting back into sport again and it was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports. I started playing in the Sandwell Central League for Sandwell Basketball

"I was playing in the Central League when the

SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

"It was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports'

other trial – and then offered me a contract. The first season I probably played, what felt like, five minutes, but every time I came on the crowd loved it because of the effort and hustle I put in."

Allen's efforts eventually saw him land a scholarship to play at Northwest Nazarene University, in Idaho, which was a Christian College. He also studied to become a social worker. But his American adventure was cut short after his wife fell pregnant with his daughter, Dominique, who herself is now a Great Britain and England international

Britain and England international.

"My wife wanted our baby to be born in the UK so we came back from US a little early," said Allen, who played most of his career as a power forward or

who played most of his career as a power forward or at centre.

"I started playing for the Bullets again and playing in America was such a learning curve and it had transformed my game. At the time, in BBL, a lot of British players sat on the bench because it was taken over by Americans, like Premiership football today really.

"But we had a really strong team in the 90s, with Nigel Lloyd, Fab Flournoy, Tony Dorsey, Tony Simms and Reggie Kirk. But one of the main things was we

always had a really good relationship with each other and also the fans."

Allen – who enjoyed two stints with the Bullets, from 1985-87 and then 1988-2001 – first won the BBL play-off finals in 1995/96, but said the second title in 1997/98, also at Wembley Arena, was the pinnacle of

his playing career.
"A year later, however, the squad was left with just five senior players. But the lack of resources once

nals in 1998 was my greatest moment but a few years later, when it didn't work out with some of the Amerlater, when it didn't work out with some of the American players, it just left of five of us. That was Lloyd, Kirk, Simms, Flourney and myself. The Bullets also eventually went full circle because when Australian Harry Wrublewski took over he wanted to take the game from leisure centres and into arenas."

Allen's career was eventually ended due to a condi-tion called neurosarcoidosis, which affected his spine. But once his playing days were over he was able to refocus and become one of the Black Country's most

refocus and become one of the black Country's most prominent coaches.

After enjoying one last hurrah with the Black Country Bears, winning the title after dropping down a division, he briefly joined Simms as coach at the Aston Athletics basketball team in 2005.

Aston Athletics basketball team in 2005. He became assistant coach at the Milton Keynes Lions under Lloyd, then general manager for the Birmingham Panthers, again under Lloyd, during their only season, from 2007/08. But a conversation with Jamie Bunch, sporting director of the Albion Foundation in 2009, that really shaped his coaching career.

Contact

"I dropped down a division and played for the Black Country Bears – and won a title – but I had been coaching all the way through and launched my own Big Sky Basketball academy. "I worked with more than 70 schools in one year

"I worked with more than 10 scnools in one year covering Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

"Jamie Bunch then got in contact and wanted to follow the Sporting Lisbon way, where there were other teams affiliated with the club. I used to run basketball sessions at Sir Gilbert Claughton, which would end with a big tournament but they wanted to set up a team and take it more seriously.

"I wanted to mush it too and through my connect."

"I wanted to push it too and through my connec-tions at the Bullets I met Jamie.

'We only had two teams when we started at under-16 and under-18. Now we have 12, which goes from under-14s up to the men's, which are now linked with

"I also coach at Dudley College and Sandwell College too, so there is a bigger network for basketball

Bilbao bound Gavin's hometown warm-up

FRANKIE Gavin warms up for his European Welterweight Title fight later this year with a six round contest in his home city in September.

The 32-year-old Birmingham boxer takes on Kerman Lejarraga in the Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. But as Gavin, the former Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. But as Gavin, the former Commonwealth and British Champion, steps up camp, he will take part in a warm-up bout at the Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway, on September 16. Gavin said: "Camp is well under way and I'm determined. Lejarraga is my main focus but it's important to get back in the ring, blow off a few cobwebs and make a statement. November will soon come round and I'm going to Bilbao to bring the European Title home."

The four-fight dinner show, 'Bilbao Bound' will also feature Gavin's stablemate Brad 'Bosh' Thomas, Central Area Heavyweight Champion, Kash Ali, and Walsall super welterweight, Levi Ferguson.

Tickets are £65 to include a two-course Sunday lunch or £35 standard unreserved. Call 07900 741 617

Davis takes on role of managing misfits

Dominic Iorfa, Jordan Graham, Phil Ofosu-Ayeh, Michal Zyro and Ethan Ebanks-Landell are training separately from the first team in a 'group

three' section at Compton Park.
Wolves are working to, ideally, find permanent moves for the players.
Loan moves look the more likely scenarios for most of the group, which also contains Paul Gladon, Joe Mason, Connor Ronan and Sylvain Deslandes as

contains Paul Gladon, Job Mason, Connor Ronan and Sylvain Desiandes as well as some of the older under-23 players.

Boyhood Wolves fan Davis came close to landing the top job at Molineux back in 2013 when he was interviewed for the then-vacant head coach role after Dean Saunders was sacked. Davis was at one point odds-on favourite to get the job but missed out to Kenny Jackett.

It's understood that he is working full-time at Compton Park overseeing the group having been handed a temporary contract.

New boss kicks off Casuals campaign

WOLVERHAMPTON Casuals boss Dean Gill hopes to hit the ground running when the West Midlands League season kicks off.
Gill made the switch from Wednesfield at the end of the last campaign and the first batch of Premier Division fixtures have handed his new charges an opening-day clash at home to Wellington. After a trip to Wem, a visit to Tividale and a home clash with his former charges follow.
Gill said: "We are pleased with the opening set of fixtures. We start with a home game which is always good and hopefully we can get a good start. If we can get a decent start I would like to see us challenging in the top six."
Last season's Premier Division runners-up Tividale kick-off at Smethwick Rangers and, as well as the clash with Casuals, meet Black Country Rangers in the opening month. Tivi boss Dave King said: "It's a tough opening month, there is no doubt about that."
Black Country Rangers, fourth last season, start at Bilston Town Com-

Black Country Rangers, fourth last season, start at Bilston Town Com-